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North & West edition No 787



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Evidence of a real plan for Brexit is needed now

THIS week, KoS was invited to attend a panel discussion in the House of Commons on the need for trade to flow seamlessly through our ports once we leave the European Union for good.

What transpired from industry leaders was a stark lack of communication with senior government figures and fears that without clear direction, the necessary adjustments that need to be made are unlikely to be in place by March 2019.

One Conservative MP attending the meeting said he thought the government was "paralysed by fear" following the referendum result and that everyone was having to play catch-up as a result of the lack of preparation.

Hindsight is, of course, a wonderful thing, but looking back it really is incomprehensible that there were seemingly no kind of preparations at all for a scenario where the public would indeed vote to leave the EU.

Granted, it did come as something of a shock to a lot of people - even Nigel Farage was making something of a concession speech in the very early hours of June 24, 2016 before the tide began to turn - but surely those with the most power should have known it could happen and that we'd need to have some kind of plan in place for that eventuality.

Ever since the result was confirmed, there really has been a sense of 'oh wow, it actually happened' from the powers that be.

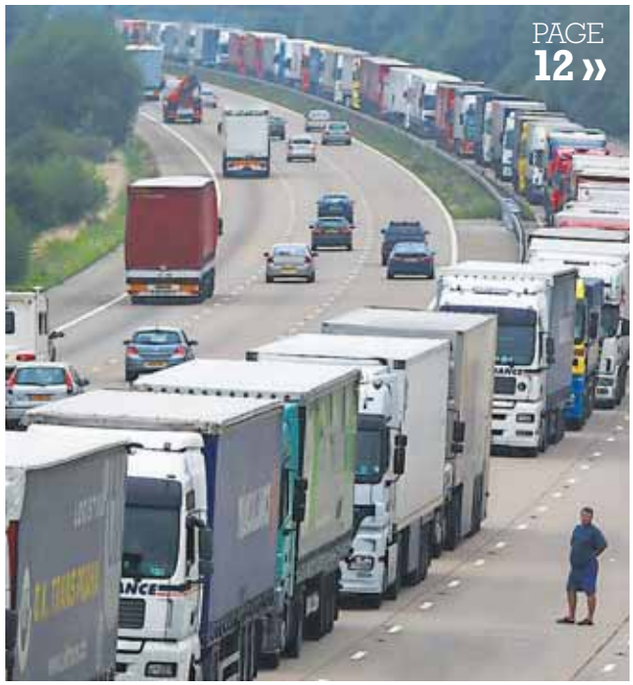
You only need to look at the face of Boris Johnson in his press conference the morning after - the look of a man who couldn't quite believe Brexit was a reality.

So we're now in a position where we have less than 18 months left and everything is having to be on an accelerated timetable...except very little seems to have actually happened.

Brexit is likely to have a monumental impact on all of us and for us here in Kent, it's arguably more important than anywhere else that we get it right.

Time is running out and we need some kind of certainty soon.

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KCC brands roundabout plan 'wholly inadequate'

By Tom Pyman
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PROPOSALS: How Highways England wants to improve junction 5 of the M2

A £102m plan to upgrade a major traffic pinch point has hit another roadblock after Kent County Council branded the proposals "wholly inadequate".

The statement, which was made at a full council meeting at County Hall on Thursday, comes as another blow for Highways England, which this week closed a six-week consultation into its plans for the Stockbury Roundabout, which links junction 5 of the M2 and the A249 between Maidstone and Sittingbourne.

Its preferred suggestion, 'option 12A', would see the roundabout englarged to provide a new through route for cars using the A249, new dedicated left-turn lanes for traffic travelling from the A249 southbound to the M2 London-bound and from the A249 northbound to the M2 coast-bound.

However, KCC has now joined Swale Borough Council in publicly denouncing the plans as not fit for purpose, instead insisting 'option 4', an A249 flyover, would provide the solution.

Highways England had discarded this option over fears the costs would exceed the project's £100m budget.

KCC's transport chief Matthew Balfour said: "Our analysis shows that option 4 is the best solution as it will allow for free-flow movements for all the dominant flows through the junction.

"Kent County Council's response to consultation stressed that the current preferred option is a missed opportunity to address existing congestion and is wholly inadequate to accommodate further growth."

Swale West councillor Mike Whiting welcomed the announcement and added: "Does the cabinet member share my scepticism at the ability of Highways England - even in the face of opposition from the county council, the borough council, the local MPs and residents - to actually change its mind and put forward a scheme that would actually do the job?"

Cllr Balfour said in response: "I live in constant optimism that Highways England will listen to Kent County Council."

A Highways England spokesperson said: "We welcome all views. The point of consultations is to put our plans out there for people to feed back on and they have done exactly that."

Storm Brian to bring gusts and flooding to county this weekend

KENT is likely to be hit by strong winds this weekend as Storm Brian makes its way to the county.

Weather chiefs are warning of difficult driving conditions, damaged or fallen trees and the potential for some isolated power outages over the coming days, as well as some isolated flooding along the coasts.

The southerly wind will increase as the low pressure starts to move east, with gusts of 45-55 mph expected quite widely across the county and as much as 60-70 mph near exposed coasts.

However, Kent is not expected to be hit quite as severely as more western areas such as Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, though residents are being advised to take precautions over the weekend.

Looking ahead to Monday, the winds will begin to ease but coastal areas could still be hit by strong gusts, while further rain and drizzle is expected for the most of the week.

The strongest winds are currently expected from late-morning through to early evening.

The winds are expected to be slightly stronger across more western areas before they begin to die down toward the end of this weekend.

A spokesperson for the Met Office said: "The strong winds, along with high tides, could lead to large waves, spray and overtopping along the coast.

"The Flood Guidance Statement is 'yellow' to indicate the possibility of isolated coastal flooding."

Brian's arrival comes after Hurricane Ophelia hit earlier this week, killing three people in Ireland while also creating a rare dust phenomenon which turned skies orange across the county on Monday (see page 8 of this week's newspaper for the full story).

The chaos comes almost exactly 30 years on from the Great Storm of 1987, which caused severe destruction across Kent and beyond.

Growers urged to outline concerns over labour access

GROWERS across Kent are being urged to complete a survey to help union chiefs lobby the government over the need for easy access to labour post-Brexit.

Farmers say they are already experiencing shortages and expect the problem to get worse.

Kent NFU adviser Amanda Corp said: ''We know the vast majority of our members recruit their own workers from outside the UK, particularly from Eastern Europe.

''Through our new survey, we want to hear from growers, in particular, who have the greatest need for non-UK workers to pick, process and pack fresh produce. We hope to reinvigorate our lobbying on this issue by providing decision-makers with a grassroots perspective.''

Prison term for teenager caught with hunting knife

A TEENAGER who was caught with a large hunting knife and a bag full of drugs in Strood has been jailed.

Kieron Boswell, 19, of Cromer Road in Rochester, ran from officers in Commercial Road in February this year.

Investigating officer PC Paul Stevens said: ''Although Boswell faced some serious consequences for dealing drugs, it was ultimately his decision to carry knives that landed him in prison. If you carry a knife you are carrying a deadly weapon, and those who decide to do so are actually more likely to be a victim of a serious assault.

''If you know someone who carries a weapon, report them, they could end up harming you, themselves or someone else.''

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines **@kentnews.co.uk** during the past week

Attacks spark security review at council HQ

A REVIEW of security at Medway Council's Chatham headquarters carried out following terror attacks in London and Manchester has found ''very good'' arrangements are in place.

Specialist officers from across the council met shortly after the attack on Westminster Bridge to consider protocols at Gun Wharf.

A self risk assessment identified some areas for improvement and the council has been recommended to spend £9,000 on enhancing CCTV and additional access control measures, as well as a further £15,000 to improve its fire safety arrangements.

Further reviews of its other corporate buildings will be carried out in the coming months.

Business leaders given insight into crossing but campaigners left fuming

By Luke May
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FRESH calls have been made for work to progress on the Lower Thames Crossing site in the Gravesham countryside.

Business leaders from the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce - which backed Option C, a bored tunnel from Gravesham into Thurrock - met with Highways England representatives last week to discuss how work was progressing.

The meeting came days after campaigners complained residents were being "left in the dark" after early drilling work for the tunnel got underway without warning.

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta, said: "We have always backed the call for a new Lower Thames Crossing and it was reassuring to hear that, despite concerns over future government expenditure, the treasury has committed funding for the team working on the project to drive it forward through the planning and community engagement process."



PLANS: Lower Thames Crossing

The crossing is expected to cost around £6billion and will be built by 2026, to alleviate some of the traffic problems at the Dartford Crossing.

According to Kent Invicta, Thursday's presentation sought to address concerns among many businesses and local politicians that the impact on the wider road and transport network was being addressed.

However, county councillor Bryan Sweetland, a member of the Lower Thames Crossing Association - a group vehemently opposed to the crossing - told a meeting this week it was "unreasonable" for Highways England not to give parish councils or residents groups information on traffic flows and potential air pollution on the grounds it "may possibly end up on social media".

KCC's transport chief Matthew Balfour said in response: "It would not be for me to comment on Highways England's attitude to local communities, or their ability to release information. We indeed are still looking for much the same stuff that the parish councils are too."

Highways England told us it was "communicating regularly" with locals and plans further engagement with the community next year.



VICTIM: Photo by Alexander Duffner

Who will be Edenbridge Guy for 2017?

THE much-anticipated celebrity effigy at this year's Edenbridge Bonfire will be revealed on November 1.

The not-for-profit Edenbridge Bonfire Society has been poking fun at infamous celebrities for over 20 years in its now-traditional event, which attracts more than 10,000 people from across Kent and beyond each year.

It sees an 11-metre 'Guy' go up in flames alongside an effigy of Guy Fawkes, all to raise thousands of pounds for local charities.

Past targets have been a real mixture of public figures, including Donald Trump, Katie Hopkins, Russell Brand, Jonathan Ross, both of the Blairs, Katie Price, Wayne Rooney, Lance Armstrong, Gordon Brown, Anne Robinson, and even Saddam Hussein.

Bookmakers usually offer odds on who the 'Guy' will be, however they are not yet being offered at this stage.

Likely contenders will be North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, foreign secretary Boris Johnson and disgraced-Hollywood film producer Harvey Weinstein.

The 'Guy' will be unveiled briefly on the morning of November 1, before being dismantled and moved for the main bonfire celebration on November 4.

Dover council elects Morris as new leader

DOVER District Council has elected Keith Morris to succeed Paul Watkins as leader.

A ward councillor for St Margarets-at-Cliffe, Cllr Morris was first elected to the council in 2011 and has been a cabinet member since 2015.

Originally from Northumberland, Cllr Morris began his working life in the army spending nine years in bomb disposal, followed by a short spell with the Royal Ulster Constabulary as well as roles in Whitehall, where he worked in a number of policy jobs mainly in the employment and education departments.

''It's an honour to be leading the council at such an exciting time with new investment and jobs across the district,'' he said.

''I look forward to working with the community to build on this success to ensure that alongside the physical regeneration were now seeing, we deliver a step change in opportunities for all.''

Cllr Watkins announced his retirement last month after serving as a councillor for 30 years.

Wrong-way drunk driver killed best man

A DRUNK driver who killed one of his closest friends while heading the wrong way along the M20 has been jailed.

Christopher Clement was twice the legal alcohol limit when CCTV captured him driving the wrong way down the motorway on March 4 this year.

His Toyota Corolla was spotted between junctions three for West Malling and four, Leybourne, at around 3am before colliding with a Volkswagen Touareg, which had been travelling in the right direction.

Mohammed Chowdhury, who had been best man at Clement's wedding, was in the passenger seat of the Toyota and died at the scene.

Analysis showed the 31-year-old, former Warnham Grove, Orpington resident's had 169 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. The legal limit is 80 milligrams.

Clement admitted to causing death by dangerous driving and was sentenced to five years and four months in prison and received a lengthy driving ban on Wednesday.

St Olave's suspends head as probe begins

THE head of a highly-selective Orpington grammar school has been suspended ahead of a council investigation into its controversial removal of underperforming students midway through sixth form.

St Olave's Grammar School confirmed the suspension of Aydin Önac on Thursday following intense pressure in recent weeks, which saw it reverse the decision and allow the affected students to return last month.

Bromley Council said it was launching a probe into concerns raised, during which the school's senior leadership team, along with other senior teachers, will be responsible for its day-to-day running.

Chair of the school's governing body, Dr Paul Wright said: ''Please remember that this suspension is without prejudice and does not presume any particular outcome.

''We are committed to full transparency and will be cooperating fully with the local authority in this matter.''

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Conman caught using name of Sherlock Holmes character

By Tom Pyman
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A BROADSTAIRS conman who stole thousands of pounds by impersonating a policeman was busted after one of his victims realised he was using the name of a character from the Sherlock Holmes novels.

Aaron Cowan, 24, was arrested in April after his false name of Inspector Greg Lestrade raised suspicions. He was subsequently charged with several counts of fraud and of impersonating a police office after he was found to have obtained cash and goods from a number of local businesses.

Canterbury Crown Court heard how Cowan, of Magdala Road, first targeted a mobile phone shop in Margate which he claimed had been sold a second-hand iPhone that had been stolen during a burglary.

On March 28 he told staff he was seizing the phone, which he placed in an evidence bag while wearing a false police lanyard and identity badge. He then sold the device to another shop for £340.

The following day he visited a travel agency in Ramsgate and claimed to be investigating the supply of fake banknotes.

After using a pipette to supposedly test the four notes that were given to him, he claimed they were indeed counterfeit but gave the cash back before leaving the store.



IMPOSTER: Aaron Cowan impersonated policeman using name of Greg Lestrade

Later that day Cowan attempted the same scam at a betting shop in Margate, where he left with £4,840 worth of notes that he claimed to have been forged. He later returned to collect the hard drive from the shop's CCTV system, which he said would assist in his investigation. Cowan left empty-handed following a similar incident at an amusement arcade in Margate on April 3.

Just four days later, he attempted to scam a business in Canterbury out of another mobile phone but the manager of the store grew suspicious of his motives and of the Inspector Lestrade name, and reported Cowan to Kent Police.

A search warrant was executed at his home in Broadstairs, where officers seized £2,500 cash, an ID badge in the name of DI Greg Lestrade and a number of evidence bags among other items that linked him to the offences.

Cowan pleaded guilty to all offences and was jailed on Wednesday.

£4m funding boost for medical campus

MAIDSTONE is to receive a £4m boost to help reduce congestion and attract further businesses and jobs to Kent Medical Campus.

The Department for Transport accepted the bid submitted by the county and borough councils, who say the cash will fund the upgrading of the two roundabouts close to Junction 7 at Bearsted Road and New Cut Road, and help create new jobs at the campus.

Watchdog called in after custody death

THE death of a 29-year-old man at Tonbridge Police Station last Friday has been referred to the police watchdog.

The man suffered a medical incident after being arrested at 3pm in Maidstone and was pronounced dead at around 5.45pm. Next of kin have been informed.

Officers 'assaulted'

A 40-year-old man has been charged with assaulting two Kent Police officers.

Daniel Fulbrook, of Dakota Drive in Chatham, is alleged to have attacked the two officers in Gillingham on Monday.

He was charged with the offences and bailed to appear at Medway Magistrates Court on Tuesday, November 21.

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Ophelia's orange glow lights up skies across the county

DARKENED skies and a red sun shone over the county this week, but despite some joking of the "apocalypse", the cause of the phenomenon was far more serious.

Dust kicked up from Storm Ophelia, which killed three people in Ireland, caused the skies to turn an orange hue across the country.

The unusual occurrence was seen across much of Kent on Monday, with a number of people sharing photos and videos online of the phenomenon.

Met Office forecaster Grahame Madge explained that the former hurricane was pulling air and dust up from southern Europe and Africa.

"It's all connected with Ophelia, on the eastern side of the low pressure system air is coming up in the southern direction," he said.



"Air is being pulled from southern Europe and Africa and that air contains a lot of dust. So it's most likely the appearance of sunset at midday is caused by the particles scattering the light and giving the appearance of a red sun."

However, a charity warned asthma sufferers to stay indoors where possible to avoid the dust.

'Vein problem' diagnosed at hospital as leaky pen

DARENT Valley Hospital this week again urged patients to only attend A&E in an emergency, after revealing a man recently checked fearing a "vein problem" - which turned out to be green ink from a leaked pen.

The hospital in Dartford made the plea after seeing "huge demand" for its services on Monday, just weeks after warning nearly 400 patients could turn up in a single day, without counting ambulance arrivals.

Council leader Jeremy Kite also urged patients to "use common sense" when arriving at A&E.

A spokesperson said: "Please can we remind people that if you (or your family members) have a condition that is not a serious accident or emergency, please do not attend the A&E.

"Recently a gentleman arrived in our A&E department after finding a green line running down his leg. He was suffering no other ailments, was not in pain or unwell, though feared he had a vein problem.

"He was seen by a nurse, who examined the green line, got a wet wipe and proceeded to gently follow the line with the wipe, which miraculously disappeared. On asking the gentleman to check his pockets he produced a leaking green pen. Please allow our staff to treat those who really need them, those who are acutely ill.

"If you choose to attend and do not have a serious or life threatening condition please be prepared for a very long wait."

Three tortoises rescued

THREE tortoises were saved by fire crews after a heat lamp sparked a blaze in a vivarium in Ashford.

Firefighters were called to a property in Faversham Road, Kennington just before 8.30am on Thursday and rescued the reptiles, who escaped uninjured.

Fraud posed as landlady

A FRAUDSTER who posed as a landlady in Gravesend to pocket hundreds of pounds in deposits from hopeful tenants has been jailed for two years.

Justina Steigvilaite would show her victims around a home in Parrock Street before asking for money.

Gong for adoption team

KENT County Council's post adoption support team has scooped a national award.

The team of clinicians from a variety of clinical and social work backgrounds, won the Excellence in Adoption Practice Award for the specialist support that they provide to families formed through adoption.

Baseball bat thug jailed

A woman who assaulted a teenager with a baseball bat following an altercation in the doorway to her Ashford home has been jailed for 21 months.

Michelle Beard, 38, of Guernsey Way, was sentenced on Thursday at Canterbury Crown Court.

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£75m town centre facelift

By Luke May
luke.may@archant.co.uk

A £75m regeneration of Dartford's town centre could bring in a cinema, hotel and more than 100 homes.

Dartford council has partnered with Muse Developments for a plan to bring the town centre back to life, after struggling from opposition at nearby Bluewater.

The proposals focus on the Westgate area of the town centre, with buildings and land lying dormant since the closure of the Co-op store, which could be turned into a 109-room hotel.

Empty land adjacent to Orchard Street could be transformed into a mixed use development, which would boast 140 new homes, a range of bars and restaurants as well a six-screen cinema.

The public space would connect Orchard Street with Hythe Street via a new town square while a pedestrian arcade will also link the new town square with Kent Road as part of a trail of cultural and entertainment venues.

Discussions are also underway between local health bosses to potentially create a shared facility for GPs, family health care, social care and mental health services.



SCHEME: How the Westgate development could look

Council leader Jeremy Kite said: "So much of what happens in Dartford is developer-driven and the council rarely has sufficient ownership to shape the use of land for the benefit of local people.

"Westgate is different and Muse has an amazing track record of creating spaces that are not only commercially successful but also hugely popular with people. The council has an ambition to create modern spaces and facilities which enjoy a direct lineage back to our town's strong sense of family and community.

"We drew 'some lines in the sand' such as the retention of the art-deco façade of the former Co-op store and the need for practical spaces and facilities for families. Cinema operators made a strong commercial case and urged us to find space for them as did mid-market quality hotel chains."

The name "Westgate" is linked to the manor house where Anne of Cleves lived between 1553 and 1557.

A planning application is expected to be submitted in the summer of 2018.

Appeal after hit-and-run

KENT Police is appealing for witnesses after a teenager was knocked off his bike by a car in Sittingbourne.

The 17-year-old teenage boy was cycling up Basser Hill on October 6 when a 4x4 type vehicle is reported to have clipped the cyclist's wheel resulting in him going over the bonnet of the vehicle and landing in a ditch.

The vehicle didn't stop and the boy was left with hand and leg injuries.

Anyone with information is urged to call 01795 419119 quoting reference 08-950.

Probe into house fire

FIREFIGHTERS are working to establish the cause of a fire which broke out in Gravesend on Wednesday.

Crews were called to Taunton Vale at 11.37am, after smoke was seen billowing out of a bedroom window, and entered the building wearing breathing apparatus.

All occupants were accounted for and one man was treated for smoke inhalation.

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CAMPAIGN: Of those who offered feedback on the plans, an overwhelming 81 per cent said they had concerns or worries, in a boost for campaigners

Otterpool consultation report suggests widespread opposition

Bosses behind the controversial garden town project say they will continue to engage with the local community, ahead of ambitions to submit a formal planning application in the spring of next year

By Tom Pyman
Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS are calling on bosses to halt a controversial garden town project after the latest round of consultation suggested widespread opposition.

The plans for Otterpool Park, close to Sellindge and Folkestone Racecourse, aim to deliver some 12,000 much-needed homes, but campaigners say it will devastate existing countryside and put a huge strain on roads and services.

Kevin Murray Associates, which carried out the consultation earlier this summer, published a report this week outlining the feedback received - the majority of which was comprehensively negative.

The sample size - a mere fraction of the district's population of circa 108,000 people - should be noted, but the attitude of those most affected by the plans has been made crystal clear.

An overwhelming 81 per cent of responses received said they had concerns or worries about the approach to the project, while a majority of 46 per cent disagreed with a notion championed by Shepway District Council that there were key employment and business opportunities associated with the project.

The vast majority said they would not consider living or working in the garden town, nor would they go for leisure or open a business there.

It follows a poll on our sister website, KentNews.co.uk, which as of this week showed some 91 per cent of more than 600 respondents did not support the garden town's development.

David Plumstead is co-ordinator of Otterpool Newtown Coalition campaign group.

He told KoS: "Those of us that have been involved in this sort of work, as I have for 30 years, know very well when you are batting on a losing wicket because you are not getting support.

"In this case, I can tell you without fear that, of the people that know anything about it, there's virtually total opposition.

"The problem we have is that a very large percentage of the people are not really aware of what is going on. They are too busy with their daily lives.

"What we have to do is find a forum for a real blast at it in the public domain to get people to truly wake up.

"When the Otterpool Park proposal first came out about 18 months ago it was in the form of an official document from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

"This is a document produced by a major government department and clearly states that an application for one of these towns has to demonstrate the support of local communities, and they have not even bothered to ask us.

"This consultation exercise is very, very late in the day, well over a year after they got their first lot of money and it's all completely wrong."

Indeed, only two weeks ago the government released £155,000 in funding - on top of significant other sums already pledged - to help speed up the development process, demonstrating a clear desire to see the project succeed, even though a formal planning application is not expected to be submitted until the spring.

However, the DCLG states in its guidance for councils looking to create garden towns that it wants to see "evidence of attractive, well-designed places with local support".

Hilary Newport, director of the Kent division of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, said: "I can only hope that they will listen to this feedback.

"The whole ethos of this garden town movement is they are supposed to be places that are locally-led and that they have the blessing of local population, but this project only has the blessing of the local council.

"There definitely seems to be a sense that this is being dropped upon them from a height."

Mr Plumstead insists his fight to stop the development is far from over, having previously halted planned projects to create a holiday village in West Wood and expand the A259 through Romney Marsh.

"Both of them already had planning permission so we were on the back foot, but managed to stop them by sheer force and not giving up," he said.

"Once you have got a group of people with genuine commitment and keep up, eventually they trip up, and I'm bloody sure they will trip up on this as well."

Despite the negative feedback, bosses insist the project will still be progressing at speed and that further consultation will take place over the coming months to further address concerns.

Andy Jarrett, spokesperson for Otterpool Park, said: "As we're all aware, councils across the country have the obligation to tackle the housing crisis.

"We must provide for future generations and the garden town approach allows us to do this logically and innovatively, enabling us to provide the vital services and facilities from the outset to support a new community. The need to do this will not disappear, and it is our responsibility to address it.

"We invited the existing community, from local residents to business groups and organisations, to come and meet the team very early on in the process.

"This allowed us to talk to a range of people at a time when their thoughts and ideas could meaningfully make a difference to our work.

"The framework masterplan being created continues to be informed by these ideas. Given the size of the project, it is important that careful consideration and time is taken to get this right.

"As yet, detailed work continues on a number of the key issues being raised by some local residents.

"When conclusions are drawn - based on research, consultation with suppliers, and the community - we look forward to sharing how feedback has shaped the plans, and how we will address the points raised by concerned residents.

"The attendance at the drop-in sessions may not be statistically representative of the population of Shepway district so in addition to our sessions with local residents, our engagement has extended across a wide range of groups in Shepway.

"Workshops with local business and civic representatives and separate sessions with young people in colleges and schools allowed us to collect exciting ideas from a diverse mix of people.

"Organisations such as East Kent College, Shepway Business Advisory Board and the Creative Foundation have all offered their support for the project and its vision to meet the needs of our young people and encourage economic growth in the area.

"Over the coming months, we'll continue to speak with everyone with an interest in Otterpool Park, including those who have so far been a part of our formal community engagement events, as well as new groups and individuals."



CHAOS: Industry experts have repeatedly warned since the referendum of queues across the county's roads if the government fails to reach an agreement with the European Union

Government accused of lacking direction on borders post-Brexit

A former Border Force chief admitted to a Commons committee this week the necessary programme for seamless trade at Kent's ports may not be completed when we leave the EU for good in 18 months

By Tom Pyman
Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

A BREXIT programme to help trade flow seamlessly through Kent's ports may not be completed by the time Britain formally leaves the European Union in 2019, it has been claimed.

The government was this week accused of not providing direction or enough certainty for industry leaders as fears of gridlock on the county's roads continue to mount with just 18 months to go until the country is out of the EU for good.

A debate was held in the House of Commons on Monday night, where a panel including Dover MP Charlie Elphicke, and a range of experts including representatives from Eurotunnel and the Road Haulauge Association (RHA), discussed the need for immediate action to prepare for Brexit.

The Port of Dover recently warned in a video at the Conservative Party conference that queues of lorries will stretch back some 17 miles across Kent's roads if ministers fail to negotiate a deal with Brussels.

Likewise, a report by consultancy firm Oxera claimed that the county could become gridlocked by an "almost-permanent instigation of Operation Stack".

During the panel discussion, members agreed it was in "everybody's interest" for lorries to travel quickly across the Channel, but admitted concerns with progress stalling and the clock rapidly ticking.

Former Border Force director general, Tony Smith, said: "The main reasons programmes fail is a lack of clear scope or direction about what it is you're trying to achieve.

"[We need] a common purpose across a group of people, some continuity in leadership, a proper governance structure so everybody know's who's accountable to who for what, and proper stakeholder engagement with the people that really understand and know the business.

"Those are the things we need to watch out for. This is a programme, it's a massive change programme and I'm not sure we're going to get it all done by March 2019, but I really want to make sure we get the programme set up properly."

Concerns that the government had not done enough to prepare since the vote to leave last June were raised, with bosses complaining of a lack of engagement over the past 16 months.

Essex MP Bernard Jenkin said he believed the government was "paralysed by fear [following the referendum result] and did not know what to do" but insisted progress was now beginning to be made.

Mark Johnson, international forwarding director at haulier, Kuehne + Nagel, hailed Mr Elphicke for organising the panel but admitted frustration it had taken so long to get a seat at the discussion table.

"I am glad the logistics industry finally has a voice," he said.

"We've had fantastic engagement with the bodies that represent our industry but this is the first forum we've been to, and yet we represent UK plc.

"We can expand to cover what we need to cover, but we need to know what we need to know."

John Keefe, director of public affairs at Eurotunnel, added: "It was a very slow start. We have been knocking on doors every single day, we have been grabbing people in lobbies and telling them.

"By force or willpower we have got ourselves in front of the of the right people at the front of the negotiations and there is a better contact but not anywhere near what it needs to be.

"Government should be inviting key players to more forums like this."

Karen Wheeler, director general for border coordination at HMRC since July, conceded that discussions were happening "later than it should have been" but insisted the government was committed to seeing the flow of vehicles operating "as well on Day One [of Brexit] as they did Day Minus One and all the time before".

She added that she was keen to have follow-up conversations with industry chiefs, and that meetings with ports and airports were ongoing over the coming weeks.

Richard Burnett, chief executive of the RHA, which represents the trucking industry, replied: "You need to have a steering group of people that know and understand the processes, people that know and understand what functionality is required.

"We then choose between us the best processes that will get us there quicker as opposed to waiting to see what's going to happen and panicking at the last minute.

"I think this needs a cross-industry group that comes together to advise and guide you in terms of what's the best and most practical way of doing this."

Conservative MP Mr Elphicke, defended the government's response, however.

He told KoS after the meeting: "This was incredibly useful to get a strong sense of what is needed to make sure that we are ready on Day One, deal or no deal, prepared for every eventuality, and the answer is systems and certainty.

"I thought it was fantastic that the director general who is in charge of borders planning for when we leave the EU came along to listen and engaged, it showed how HMRC are really positive and leading the way.

"We've got 18 months to go, good discussions going on, a lot of thought has gone into what needs to happen and I think things are moving forward at pace.

"Brexit is the most important project our nation has undertaken since the Second World War.

"We know there's only 18 months to go but we also know as British people we can come together and unite, and when we are united there is no obstacle that we cannot overcome, no challenge that we cannot meet, and I know that we can do this.

"There are massive opportunities for our country in the years to come, because everyone knows 90 per cent of future world economic growth is coming from outside the EU, and that the EU's global share of GDP has halved in the last 40 years, so the future is global.

"We need to have world class customs systems, we need to have world class border controls so we can find Visa over-stayers and stop criminals breaking into the country, and everyone in Kent knows we need to have world class roads, we cannot have a situation where we continually have to put up with the horrors of Operation Stack.

"That's why I've been banging the drum for the government to invest in Kent because it's time we had our fair share."

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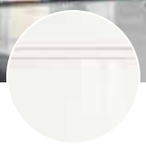
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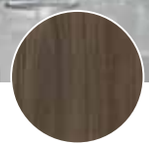
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Halloween and how it became far more than trick or treat

Businesses around the county are eyeing up the spooky season as a key opportunity between the end of summer and the great Christmas rush. But in the age of instant social media, they tell us why getting it spot on is absolutely crucial

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HALLOWEEN in Kent is now far from a night of casual trick or treating for kids in the local neighbourhood - big business now wants a slice of the pumpkin pie too.

Gone are the days of cheap props, and in has come supermarkets and other retail giants flogging sophisticated and ever-more horrific animatronics of monsters, ghouls and beasts.

It was only a matter of time before Kent attractions got on board.

Some regard October as something of a 'dead zone' between summer holidays and the mayhem of Christmas, but 'scare zones' have now arrived to fill that void.

Those who have tried and failed to run winter wonderlands to capture the snowy glory of Lapland have provided valuable intelligence on how to run a Halloween evening.

In these days of instant social media, unfavourable reviews can sound the death-knell of any attraction before the critic has even left the gate for a disappointed trip home.

Many Halloween attractions in Kent keep it all very gentle for young children making for a fun family outing, but some are going for the adults with genuinely terrifying nights.

Market analysts Mintel found Brits spent £310 million on Halloween in 2016, up five per cent on the previous year.

This year promises to be even higher as more and more get into the spirit of it all, with 40 per cent of us spending big on Halloween.

Mintel analyst Alice Goody said: "The value of the Halloween market is set to continue rising as retailers continue to dedicate more space in store to their seasonal ranges.

"It provides a good excuse for a party, driving retail spend on food and drink, as well as money on going out."

Like all businesses though, it can be cut-throat.

Miguel Fenton, head of marketing at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood, used to do an adult Halloween night with proper scares but stopped.

He said: "Most of the areas we used for the event we have now rented out long term, which is far more profitable.

"We do still run Halloween Half Term Fun for children and families which is always very popular."

That leaves the scare masters. Chatham's Fort Amherst dates back to Napoleonic times.

Eddie Sampson is director of art and performance at the Fort's Halloween Horrors 2017 Underground Event.

He told us: "We have been doing this since 1982, and it has taken off so much now that we have started to sell tickets much earlier.

"Our reputation for putting on evenings that absolutely terrify visitors is spreading rapidly. We are even represented at horror conventions.

"I come from a horror background and over the decades have learned what the adult public expect from a Halloween evening.

"We have a team of actors who have done this with us for a while and they know exactly how much to scare the guests.

"We don't want any heart attacks, but we do want them to be scared - that's what they expect and that's what they get. And the growing ticket sales shows we are getting it right.

"Social media is so fast and can be damaging, but because we are a charity that concentrates on keeping our guests happy, we are pleased with the way things are going online.

"You have to get it right, or it will fail. At Fort Amherst, I think we have got it just right. The right actors, equipment, and attitude of all the volunteers involved ensure this is the best Halloween experience in Kent."



FRIGHT: Businesses are identifying October as a key market before Christmas



HORRORS: Halloween is becoming a key event for adults as well as children

DREAMLAND - WELCOME TO THEIR NIGHTMARE



DREAMLAND'S transformation to Screamland has gained a great reputation.

The Margate theme park said: "We are all following the US trend for capitalising on Halloween.

"It has become a key event date in an adult's calendar giving them an excuse to dress up.

"Screamland is Kent's biggest scare festival as the park takes on a darker identity with a fully immersive and interactive scare experience.

"Many of our rides are themed and this year we will also be hosting live music and DJs on the Scenic Stage.

"There is also a 'No Scare' with unlimited ride access plus all the on park entertainment and music. There are also six specially designed scare mazes providing a few jumps.

"Our production team has spent a lot of time researching and testing different things out, travelling far and wide to put as many ideas in the pot as possible.

"We carefully recruit the best scare actors in the business and timing is a crucial factor in ensuring the scare is hitting the full quota of people at the right time.

"There is also plenty of variety so some people are afraid of clowns, others like a strong believable narrative and others simply may not like the dark.

"It's important to play to a wide-range of what is thought of as scary so that we can reach a broad audience.

"Social media is vital for us and we're using this as a primary tool for attracting visitors and for outlining the experience that will be delivered."

Carrie Malone is the Operations Manager at Quex Park in Birchington, which is holding its Quextreme night for the second time.

She said: "Managing customer expectation is hard. Popular themes help, along with what's hot in the word of media."

Asked if they see Halloween as a stop-gap between traditional seasons, she said: "I believe so" and added: "Demand is high. Competition is high - more attractions are offering it now.

"It is more important to get it right because of the competition. Social media can ruin events and attractions."

John Harris, at Broadditch Farm Shop, New Barn Road, Southfleet, runs Broadwitch Hauntfest, a popular 'jump' event.

He said: "We have followed America's lead in celebrating. We have hosted five haunted attractions here at Broadwitch, each of these is themed differently to offer a unique experience.

Continued on page 16

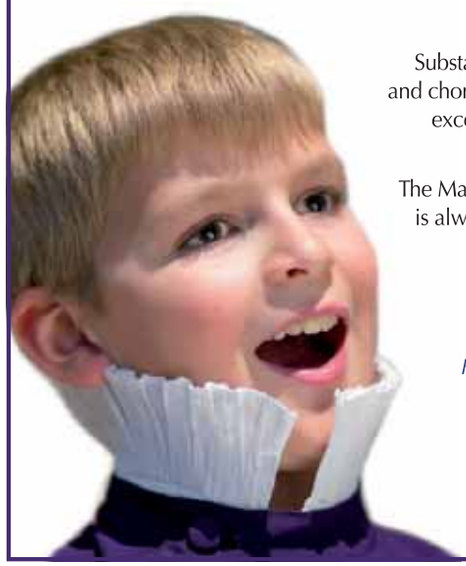


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HOW TO SCARE UP A FORTUNE

SINEAD Hanna, head of marketing at Visit Kent, told us: ''Halloween is certainly not the off season for tourism.

''It has always been a very popular time for attractions as it traditionally falls within the autumn half term for schools, when most attractions are still open and thousands of families are looking for something fun to do.

''We see Kent attractions pushing the boat out adding different dimensions to appeal to all ages, such as fancy dress competitions, 'spooky' trails, craft classes and workshops, and seasonal events.

''As well as events for children, there has been an increase in adult events.

''A growing trend is 'live action scare' events. Running a successful scare event is no small feat, and we are fortunate to have some exceptionally high quality events in Kent such as the scare tunnels at Fort Amherst, Contagion at The Canterbury Tales, and the incredible 'Screamland' Margate.

''Like Christmas and Easter, Halloween is a very exciting and lucrative time of year for tourism businesses – and people might be surprised at just how much is happening in the county at this time of year.''



THRILL: Attractions across the county are pulling out all the stops to create a thrilling experience for all visitors

Continued from page 15

"A large percentage of our customers return each year so it is important to re-invent and inspire with subtle changes and innovations.

"Pneumatics form the base of our interactive ideas; the creative theming is inspired by a dedicated small team.

"We regularly attend one of the major Halloween shows in the US to research and pick up ideas which we can then put our own twist on.

"Everyone is unique and reacts to different scares be it startle scares, whispering in your ear or chainsaws. A good mix of all scares is important.

"Pricing needs to be sensible to do this and so encourage repeat business."

Diana Holford, event manager for English Heritage looks after Dover Castle, which runs a Haunted Castle event at £19.40 for adults and £11.60 for children.

"Halloween has always been a big part of our annual events programme, partly because many of our ancient sites have spooky connections," she said.

"Dover Castle for example is reputed to be one of the most haunted castles in England.

"The growing popularity for marking Halloween means more people are looking for an event.

"We pride ourselves on the historical authenticity of our events, which are linked directly with the castle history.

"We are always looking for new ideas. We have one of the longest running and best respected events programmes going, so we know what genuinely makes spines tingle - and what doesn't."

Kent Life said: "Key attraction players such as Merlin and Tulley's have successfully diversified their attractions so last year, we launched an adult-only scare event across our 28 acres.

"Most of our investment is in staffing and our volunteers attend 'zombie school'.

"Scare levels vary massively from one person to the next. We find that building suspense and anticipation is key.

"Creating fear in a group is vital as their apprehension levels feed off each other."

It added: "Autumn is a packed time of year for us with plenty of seasonal events already in place.

"Demand is high. We ran two nights of adult only events last year, and have increased this to five. We listen to feedback to make improvements.

"It's best to under promise and over deliver."

Clare Singer at Groombridge Place said: "It's a holiday everyone can get involved in and has actually over taken Valentine's Day as the third largest holiday in the UK.

"There is so much competition now with attractions to get that spooky pound so you have to be ahead of the game. Getting the props and entertainment right is key.

"It is harder to judge what makes people jump, but senses are a good start. Take away the ability to see, and imagination takes over – a dark room, creepy lighting and you are sure to have people afraid of the unknown and what could happen to them in the dark.

"It is definitely a holiday that many venues are building on to attract more footfall after the summer and before the Christmas holiday begins.

"Providing a themed event is key."







CHAMPIONS: Businesses from across the county were recognised for their contribution to food and drink

Celebrating the county's finest at our Food and Drink Awards

More than 200 of Kent's best producers came together at a glitzy ceremony in Ashford on Monday, to raise a glass to yet another phenomenal year for the county's blossoming food and drink industry

By Tom Pyman
Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

THE county's finest producers descended on the Ashford International Hotel on Monday evening for the fifth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards.

The glitzy black-tie ceremony celebrates the best the region's food and drink industry has to offer, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers - all of which are nominated by readers.

Having narrowed down a shortlist for the categories celebrating the greatest in food and drink producers and providers around the county, the winners were selected by a panel of high-profile individual judges, who all live and work in Kent.

The winners were announced by BBC Radio Kent presenter Andy Garland in front of an audience of some 200 people, following a three-course meal.

Chapter One in Locksbottom scooped the prestigious Restaurant of the Year gong, to cap an incredible few weeks for chef Andy McLeish, who along with business partner Marcel Faulstich took ownership of the fine-dining eatery last month.

They told us afterwards: "What makes Chapter One special is our passion for the restaurant business, and that's what's going to carry us forward.

"Kent is where we are based and we are very proud of using local produce. As a matter of fact, we were tasting quite a few local wines and we probably want to add them to our wine list as well.

"Chapter One is going to be the number one restaurant in the south east going forward. Watch this space."

Kent Food and Drink Hero of the Year went to Jonathan Neame of Faversham brewery Shepherd Neame - a gong designed to recognise an individual who has made a lasting contribution to the county's food and drink community.

Steve Whitney, from Whits of Walmer, won Chef of the Year and told us why he believes the county continues to produce the very best.

"I'm a Kent boy, I went to Thanet Technical College, moved to London, moved abroad, came back, got fed up with London and decided to buy down in Kent.

"I just love this part of the world, I couldn't live anywhere else. Kent is it for me.

"Where our restaurant is you've got this fantastic coastline that goes all the way up to Whitstable and further, with beautiful beaches, and then on the other side you've got fantastic countryside that have got all your fruit and veg. It's all there."

Judges were looking for a talented individual who can demonstrate their own flair and expertise to produce high-quality dishes, and deemed The Kings Head, Wye worthy winners.

Scott Richardson and Mark Lightfoot said: "We work with local suppliers, that's the foundation of the business.

"We're really proud of using everything local. We're not from this industry so we've got a different perspective, and we've got quite open eyes.

"What we didn't realise, but certainly do now, is what we've got in Wye is phenomenal, and what Kent has got is ridiculous.

"We moved out of London and moved to Hertfordshire but it's got nothing on Kent. The people, producers, customers, envrionment, it's just a really nice place to own a business and be successful.

"We might not be from Kent but we're here and embedded in the local community and we want to live the Kentish life."

Elsewhere, Cliftonville scooped the Farmer's Market of the Year gong, Roost Restaurant and Cafe won the Family Dining Award, The Heath Stores, Horsmonden won Best Independent Food and Drink Retailer of the Year and Farm Shop of the Year went to Groombridge.

Hendricks of Hythe, a chocolaterie specialising in hand-rolled and moulded truffle chocolates, claimed the Outstanding Customer Service of the Year award.

Owner Tamsin Cullen said the secret to her success was "attention to detail and going the extra mile for our customers".

She added: "It's absolutely fabulous, especially as we were winners last year so I'm really happy to be recognised for a second year running."

Elsewhere, The Bow Window won Independent Cafe/Tea Room of the Year and said the victory "put Lenham on the map", while Laura Bounds of Kent Crisps, winner of Product/Producer of the Year, said her triumph was "an incredible achievement".

She added: "Kent is just full of amazing wine, chocolate, restaurants, it's absolutely brimming with amazing producers so we're very fortunate."

Finally, Newcomer of the Year went to Houdini's Magic Bar in Broadstairs, which is the first venue of its kind anywhere in the south east.

Owner Sam Watson said: "It's something completely different, every night is magic night. This is our first year and it's been so much hard work but now it's paid off."

Summing up the evening, presenter Andy Garland said: "It's great to be back hosting these prestigious awards for the third year in a row in such a valuable venue.

"The quality has been absolutely outstanding and we're really pleased with the time and effort that our readers have taken in nominating their favourite businesses."

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- Farm Shop of the Year - Groombridge
- Outstanding Customer Service - Hendrick's of Hythe
- Independent Cafe/Tea Room of the Year - The Bow Window
- Product/Producer of the Year - Kent Crisps and Kentish Oils
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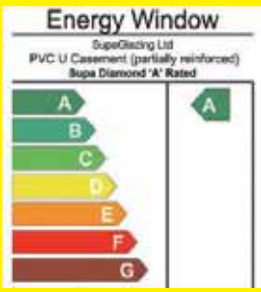
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Boris takes European delegates on boat trip at Chevening House

Despite desperate pleas from his wife to stay on dry land, the foreign secretary was snapped taking guests from the continent for a spin in a rowing boat at his plush Sevenoaks residence last weekend

Tom Pyman
Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

BORIS Johnson took an impromptu boat trip with a foreign counterpart at his official Kent residence last Sunday - despite desperate pleas from his wife to stay on dry land for fear they would be drowned.

During a walk around the estate at Chevening House, near Sevenoaks, the foreign secretary tried to encourage ministers from eight European allies to join him for a spin out in a rowing boat.

After Mr Johnson pushed the vessel out on to the water, wife Marina Wheeler tried to persuade him to head to the house with the delegation.

Taking him by the arm, the barrister said: "Come on, they have got a programme. We don't want to drown... we are not drowning the foreign ministers, come on."

But Mr Johnson soon headed back to the boat where he suffered a wardrobe malfunction more commonly associated with builders while holding it steady for the Czech Republic's deputy foreign minister Ivo Sramek.

Joining Mr Sramek in the dinghy, Mr Johnson said the paddle would be a "tremendous success" before spending a couple of minutes rowing round the lake.

As well as the Czech minister, Mr Johnson was hosting counterparts from Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia at the grace and favour house - around eight miles from Orpington, the constituency seat held by his brother Jo - for talks on European security.

He said: "Our departure from the EU will make no difference to Britain's unconditional and immovable commitment to the security and defence of Europe.

"This meeting was a further demonstration that the UK is a vital partner in the security of our continent."

Chevening House has played host to a number of meetings between senior government ministers and business figures in recent months, mostly to discuss the impact of leaving the European Union.



GUESTS: Boris Johnson welcomed European allies to his swanky county estate on Sunday.

Back in June, Mr Johnson was spotted meeting defence secretary and constituency MP Sir Michael Fallon at local pub The Bricklayers Arms in Chipstead.

The pair were then caught chatting on a bench overlooking the River Darent, sparking rumours the former London mayor was planning to relaunch a leadership bid with criticism of Theresa May growing louder.

These claims were swiftly denied, as sources said Mr Johnson "regularly sees Michael when he is staying

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STEADY: The foreign secretary couldn't resist another photo opportunity, but MPs are reportedly growing frustrated by his antics. All photos: Daniel Leal-Olivas/PA Wire

at Chevening".

However, criticism of the foreign secretary has ramped up again in recent weeks, particularly during the Conservative Party conference earlier this month, with Faversham and Mid Kent MP Helen Whately admitting it was "unhelpful that he was getting headlines" in the run-up to Mrs May's now-infamous keynote speech.

Dover MP Charlie Elphicke refused to be drawn on whether he was frustrated by Mr Johnson's behaviour, simply telling us: "Boris is a great charismatic figure, he is foreign secretary and we need all our best players on the pitch."

Chevening locals have previously revealed it is no secret when ministers are in town, as they come with a huge security presence, and visitors approaching the gates of the 115-room estate are confronted by an armed guard.

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For a very long time, the causes of recurring intestinal problems were a mystery to scientists. Recently, they found a possible answer: symptoms such as bloating, constipation or diarrhoea, flatulence or abdominal pain could be a sign for a disease called Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Today, experts are increasingly convinced that IBS may be caused by small damages in the intestinal barrier. These allow pollutants and pathogens to enter the intestinal wall, triggering the typical IBS symptoms.

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Warning over blocked chimneys

Crews have tackled 91 chimney fires in Kent already this year, and with winter rapidly approaching, those of us with open fires are being told to take precautions and help minimise the potential risks



By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS temperatures begin to plummet, homeowners with an open fire are being warned they could be exposed to lethal burnt gases if their chimney is blocked.

Even a partial block can send gases back into the home, and chiefs are growing concerned with 91 chimney fires recorded in Kent already this year, before the cold season has even arrived.

The solution, crews say, is to get a professional chimney sweep round before winter truly bites, and have the entire system spruced up.

No blockages and no build-up of soot from previous years, will help ensure a safer winter, says Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

Group manager for Community Safety, Colin King, said: "It is around this time of year that we start to see chimney fires as people start lighting their open fires in their homes again.

"We are advising residents who do use open fires or wood burning stoves to have their chimneys and flues swept regularly by a professional chimney sweep.

"It is easy to overlook the fact that a build-up of soot and ash left over from previous fires can lead to the chimney catching alight, presenting a real risk to your home and family.

"We also advise residents to consider having the condition of your chimney checked to ensure it is safe and to ensure they follow our chimney fire safety advice when using this method to heat their homes.

"Please also ensure you have working smoke alarms fitted on every floor of your property to give you the early warning needed in the event of a fire."

Russ Avery has run Sootingbourne Sweeps in Sittingbourne for two years after leaving a career in IT and told KoS that demand in recent months has gone through the roof.

"We have never been busier and it shows people are worried about keeping the risks of fire in their chimneys to an absolute minimum, and for good reason," he said.

"Many insurance companies are finally getting the word out there. They have been telling people with open fires that they should get their chimneys swept regularly.

"If they don't and there is a fire in the chimney, there could be a chance they will not be covered for damage caused.

"And as I charge between £40 and £60 as most do, why would you not get it done? It makes perfect sense to keep a chimney clean. Soot build up can ignite causing major damage to a building and everything inside."

Simon McDowell at Simon Sweeps Kent in Gillingham charges £50, and is also licensed by the insurance industry.

He told us: "I use a CCTV system to inspect the chimneys inside, and some people are shocked when I show them their white bricks which indicate there has been a fire at some stage.

"It is not just soot build up, but also birds building nests that can cause problems.

"I still can't believe anyone would put their lives at risk for such a small outlay.

"My business is picking up and I expect to be busy for a long time to come."

Carla Bennett runs River Chimney Sweep near Dover with her partner Marcus Wright, and they charge £30 or £40 if there is travel involved.

Continued on page 26

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FIRE: A blocked chimney can have potentially fatal consequences

Continued from page 25

"We are booked up until November at the moment," Ms Bennett said.

"A growing number of insurance companies do like home owners to have proper certificates to show people have had their chimneys done properly, which we do.

"We are getting a lot of new business from word of mouth referrals, and people who just find us, plus there are our regulars.

"It makes sense to get a chimney swept every year, just to be on the safe side.

"The latest craze is getting wood burners, and so that keeps us incredibly busy."

Latest figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government show that 294 people died in fires in England during 2015, an increase of 21 per cent compared with the 242 deaths recorded in 2014 and the largest increase since figures were published in 2001-02.

Tragically, that rise came after a decade of falling numbers from a peak of 469 in 2003.

HOW THE DANGER STACKS UP

IT'S quite simple - a build up of deposits.

This can be soot from coal, and a sticky tar from wood. Add in the possibility of passing birds inadvertently dropping nest-building materials and general dust, it is clear a flue and chimney is destined for a blockage at some stage over the years.

With a professional sweep costing well under £100, the fire brigade says getting them cleaned is painfully obvious.

And although it is not yet a full stipulation for insurance companies, the Fire Protection Association also recommends sweeping just to be on the safe side and reduce risks.

And those risks are considerable. Hot spots in chimneys can happen along their whole length, but the loft area is a favourite.

A fire there can break through brickwork and the flames could destroy everything in that area, and the roof, said Kent Fire and Rescue.

A chimney is often a load-bearing'backbone' in many properties, and a roaring fire inside could cause a major collapse.

That lethal smoke laced with carbon monoxide has to go somewhere and if the chimney is blocked, it will flood back in to the home, creating a fatal, often invisible fog.

Just a few breaths can render someone initially unconscious and eventually kill them where they lay.

In Kent at least, people seem to be getting the message. In 2010, there were 338 chimney fires. It reduced to 250 in the following two years, but there was a sharp rise again in 2013 to 314. Things improved in 2014 when it declined to 188.

A fire spokesman said: "From January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 KFRS attended 190 chimney fires, and 178 in 2016.

"So far this year, crews have attended 91 chimney fires, but this is forecast to increase in the forthcoming weeks and months as the weather cools down and open fires and wood burning stoves are lit more frequently."

KFRS group manager for community safety, Colin King, added: "It is easy to overlook the fact that a build-up of soot and ash left over from previous fires can lead to the chimney catching alight, presenting a real risk to your home and family."

He said sweep chimneys annually, get a working carbon monoxide detector, and only burn appropriate fuels, avoiding rubbish like paper and things like crisp bags.

A roaring noise not previously heard before is an early indication of a chimney fire. If it happens, get everyone out and dial 999, is always the best advice.

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SPRUCE: Richard Burr (right) paints his front door, and provides five top tips to help make yours stand out from the rest. Photo: Richard Burr/PA Wire

The importance of maintaining the front door to your home

Refreshing your home's entrance is a big job but can make a huge difference in making it stand out from the rest on your street. Here, we provide five top tips on how to get the job done effectively

By Richard Burr
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THANKS to the property programmes on telly, we know all about kerb appeal these days.

There's no better place to start than your front door. If it's been looking shabby for a while and you've been meaning to sort it, now's the perfect time - before the dark and wet evenings set in. It's not as daunting as you might think...

Tip 1: Timing is everything

The only reason our front door got done is because we blocked out two consecutive weekends to tackle it (it was in pretty horrible nick). If you don't make the time to start it and get it finished, you'll regret it - an unfinished door is much uglier than one that needs painting. Get it done before the weather gets too cold, as you'll need your front door open for as long as possible while the paint dries.

Tip 2: Stock up on all the kit you need

Get all your gear ready before you start. Here's what you'll need:

80-120 grit sandpaper - I usually buy these in rolls, as I use it so regularly at work, but you can also buy it in sheets.

Rags - it's a dusty job and you'll need to rub off dust while you work. Have a vacuum cleaner handy too.

Plastic dust sheet for your porch or hall. If someone opens your back door while the front door is open, you'll pull a dust cloud through the house.

If your door's in particularly bad condition, use a two-part wood filler before undercoating. Do not use decorators' caulk, as it's not appropriate for front doors.

Paint primer and an undercoat to prepare your surface. However, you won't need both of these separately if you get a primer undercoat (more on that in a minute).

Paint for the door.

You'll mostly use a two-inch synthetic bristle brush, but you'd be better off getting a paint brush set - they don't cost much and you'll need the one-inch brush for cutting-in windows if you have them.

White spirit or brush cleaner for cleaning brushes.

Stanley knife blade - very useful for cleaning spots of paint off glass - just don't cut your fingers.

Tip 3: Choose the best paint

If you're painting your front door, you'll need exterior gloss. This is far harder-wearing than interior gloss and well worth the money. And if you're going to all this trouble, why not be bold with your colour? I painted my door bright red and it cheers me up every time I see it. Plus, when I'm in a cab, I can say, 'The house with the red door please', as it's the only one in our street!

Whatever paint you choose, make sure you get the same brand primer undercoat to go with the top coat. Paints are designed to work together for the best results and, in some cases, can be completely incompatible between brands. I recommend Sikkens Paint. Apparently, this is the paint used on Number 10 Downing Street's door. I got mine from my local suppliers Designer Colours (they colour-matched the primer undercoat for me, too) but it's available at lots of other stores, as well.

Tip 4: Paint in the right order

It may seem obvious, but this guide is only for painting the front of your door. Save the inside for another time.

Prepare the outside of the door on day one, by removing all the door furniture then sanding it all over (being careful not to scratch your glasswork), wood-filling if necessary and dusting it down with your rags. Start painting early in the day to get maximum drying time.

Don't overload your brush with paint - you'll get drips all over the floor and it'll run on the door. First, paint all the mouldings and cut into the windows (if you have any) using the one-inch brush. As you look at the door, you'll see horizontal lengths of wood - 'rails' - that fit into vertical lengths called 'stiles'. Often down the middle of a door, you'll also have a length of wood called a 'muntin'. If the door has them, paint the muntins first, using long, sweeping motions, then start 'laying off' the paint using one long, continuous stroke back into the paint you've put on the door.

Next, paint the rails. Once you've painted all the rails, you can paint the stiles, so that the edge where each rail finishes is painted over on the stile - this will give you a good finish. While you're painting the stiles, paint the hinge edge of the door at the same time.

Tip 5: Leave your door to dry properly

For a front door, I use two layers of primer undercoat and one coat of gloss. The undercoat is touch-dry after two hours, but I always leave the door open for as long as possible, before closing it to go to bed. I let it dry properly for 18 hours, then give the door a fine-sand, rub-off with a rag, and repeat the process.

Use a wedge to prop the door open while it dries and if you need to be elsewhere in the house, put on the internal security chain. For the gloss layer, it takes 24 hours to dry properly, so you will need to sleep with the door very slightly wedged open and the internal chain on. If you don't want to risk that, leave it for as long as possible, but you may need to do some touching-up the next day.

Once everything is dried and set, you can re-fix your door furniture and you're done. Incidentally, while you're painting your front door, you tend to meet just about every neighbour in your road - just don't get roped into painting theirs for them!



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All this and you will technically be living on a desert.



The original carriage has been divide into three equal sections providing two bedrooms and central hall.

Later extensions to the front add a generous kitchen/ lounge living space along with the cloakroom / W/C. Although we would suggest that most of your time will be spent sitting in the huge conservatory / sun lounge (25'7" x 9'3") relaxing and marvelling at the stunning ever-changing vistas.

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PADDOCK WOOD
Maisonette for Improvement
Guide: £75-80,000 **plus fees* EPC: E



MAIDSTONE
House for Improvement
Guide: £190-£195,000 **plus fees*



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House for Improvement
Guide: £240-£250,000 **plus fees* EPC: tba



CHATHAM

Shop and Self-contained Flat for Investment

Guide: £190-£200,000 **plus fees*
EPC: F & tba



CHATHAM
Large House for Improvement
Guide: £180-190,000 **plus fees* EPC: E



QUEENBOROUGH
Land with Planning for 5 Commercial Units
Guide: £120-125,000 **plus fees*



SITTINGBOURNE
Offices with Conversion Potential
Guide: £210-220,000 **plus fees* EPC:tba



STAPLEHURST
Rural Cottage for Improvement
Guide: £395-400,000 **plus fees* EPC: F



HORSMONDEN
Offices for Repair in Village Location
Guide: £40-50,000 **plus fees*



ELMLEY, ISLE OF SHEPPEY
Land, Lakes, WWII Air Raid Post
Guide: £60-70,000 **plus fees*



BIRCHINGTON
Site with Planning for 12 Apartments
Guide: £840-860,000 **plus fees*



RAMSGATE

Freehold Block Comprising Four Flats for Investment

Guide: £270,000 Plus **plus fees*
EPC: D



WHITSTABLE
Premises with Potential. Desirable Area.
Guide: £430-440,000 **plus fees* EPC:tba



SITTINGBOURNE
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Guide: £195,000 Plus **plus fees* EPC: E



SHEERNESS
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Guide: £105,000 Plus **plus fees* EPC: E



HIGH BROOMS
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Guide: £220,000 Plus **plus fees* EPC: F



NORTHUMBERLAND HEATH, ERITH
Land - Planning for Contemporary House
Guide: £140-145,000 **plus fees*



FOLKESTONE

Block of Four Flats for Investment

Guide: £200,000 Plus **plus fees* EPC:D



SHOLDEN
Land, Farmshop and Car Park in Almost Four Acres
Guide: £200-250,000 **plus fees* EPC: F



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House for Improvement with Conversion Potential
Guide: £150-155,000 **plus fees* EPC:D



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F/hold Investment - Flat & Ground Rent
Guide: £50-55,000 **plus fees* EPC: E



FOLKESTONE
Property with Consent for 13 Apartments
Guide: £700,000 Plus **plus fees*



ASHFORD
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Guide: £350-360,000 **plus fees* EPC:D



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WIGMORE, GILLINGHAM
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GREAT MONGEHAM **Guide Price: £795,000**

Lovely characterful period farm house (listed Grate 11). Hall, drawing room, kit/breakfast rm, study, dining room, utility rm, study, dining rm, utility rm, larder, 5/6 beds, dressing rm/bed 4, 3 bathrms, 3 cloaks, walled gdn, 2 gdn rms, Chinese style pavilion, parking, garage.



WALMER/KINGSDOWN **Guide Price: £895,000**

One of just five houses tucked away, lovely channel views to front & farmland to rear. Cons/entrance lobby, 25'6 lounge/dining rm, kit/breakfast rm, study/bed 5, 4 dbl beds 3 with seaviews, ensuite, bathrm, gdn approx. ½ acre, circular driveway/parking, det gge. EPC TBC.



ST MARGARETS BAY **Guide Price: £850,000**

An interesting opportunity to acquire a substantial detached house, hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, snug/study, sitting room, box room, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 2 large balcony's, driveway/parking, gardens, EPC:D



ST MARGARET'S BAY **Guide Price: £695,000**

Substantial detached character house, views over the Foreland Valley. 5 beds. sitting/dining rm. kitchen/breakfast rm. Sauna, wet rm. cloak room. & bathroom. Utility rm. cellar. Parking for 2-3 vehicles, garden. EPC: F



KINGSDOWN **Guide Price: £650,000**

A well presented spacious detached family home, up to 5 beds, Hall, lounge, sitting/bed 5, dining rm, study/bed 4, kitchen, utility, downstairs bathrm, annexe potential, 3 double beds, ensuite bath, shower room, 2 parking areas, garage, garden. EPC D



RINGWOULD **Guide Price: £395,000**

Beautifully presented semi detached character Victorian house. Hall, sitting rm, kit, cons/breakfast rm, cloaks, utility,2 beds, en-suite bathrm, shower rm, parking space for 1 vehicle, gardens, summerhouse, EPC C



ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE **Guide Price: £419,995**

An interesting semi-detached period house, sympathetically updated and extended to make a lovely character house: 3 receptions rooms, kitchen, utility room, cloak, 3 beds, en-suite, bathroom, attic room, garden, parking,2/3 cars, EPC: D

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STAR: The former Carluccio's waiter says he has had a ''rollercoaster'' year since winning the X Factor back in December

X Factor's Matt Terry has advice for next top singer

The Bromley singer talks travel, writing, coming home and his year so far

FRESH off the success of his top 10 single with Sean Paul and Enrique Iglesias, X Factor winner Matt Terry says his first 10 months of stardom have been "amazing".

The Bromley singer has spent his year so far travelling all over the world, meeting with writers and producers as he prepares to release his debut album - so far untitled - by the end of November.

Ahead of the album's release, the singer released his first "proper" solo single, Sucker for You, the track came in at number 40 on last week's charts, just two days after it was released.

Before the track was released, Mr Terry took the time to speak with KoS, and tell us how life has been since the moment his name was called out as the winner of the Simon Cowell-produced show.

Describing 2017 as a "rollercoaster, the former Carluccio's waiter said: "There have been so many great moments since I won.

"I've travelled to places like Miami, Finland, Sweden and so many other cool places to meet with some top record producers and writers.

"I was so excited to release my first track, it's all written by me so I really wanted to get it out there and see what people thought of it.

"We were teasing fans with sneak previews of it for weeks and they were all really keen to hear it."

Ten months ago, the 24-year-old's debut single, When Christmas Comes Around, came third in the race for Christmas number one, while the 13th X Factor winner's collaboration with Spanish singer Enrique Iglesias and pop-superstar Sean Paul took him to number 10 with Subeme La Radio.

The singer, who previously lived in Spain before moving to Bromley, said: "Working with Enrique Iglesias and Sean Paul for Subeme La Radio was unbelievable, then seeing it get to the top 10 was just even better."

2017 has seen the latest X Factor winner travel the world and write his debut album, all while playing gigs across the country, including headlining Dartford Festival in July.

Despite the hectic schedule, the Spanish-fluent singer has still had time to come home, and even fit in a few episodes of the competition that catapulted him into the limelight.

He said: "I still come back to Bromley and see my Carluccio's lot, I have a lot of friends here and obviously you can't beat The Glades. The shopping in Miami might be a bit different, but Bromley is still home.

"I've been watching this year's X Factor and Rai-Elle has really stood out for me, she's only 16 and her acapella performance of Bridge Over Troubled Water was amazing.

"My advice for any winner is stick with your beliefs and don't be afraid to stand up for yourself.

"I'm sure it happens with every artist, you get put under pressure to change your sound, or something like your hairstyle, but if you just stick to what you know and work hard with the people around you, then you will get along fine."

Matt Terry's debut album is expected to drop by the end of November, while the singer is hoping to put together a UK tour next year.

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Women Seeking

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KATHLEEN, attractive lady, 58yrs. Blue-eyed brunette with varied interests. I love life and want a nice gent to share it with me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429047**

VICTORIA, elegant smart black lady. 42yrs, loves life, gsoh, sexy in a sophisticated way. Looking to meet a chap of any age, must have GSOH. **Text Only. Box: 4084600**

SYLVIA, 44yrs, curvy busty build. Very respectful. Hoping to meet a good man to love. Call to hear more, I've lots to tell you. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429045**

JAMIMA, attractive, smart intelligent lady. 43yrs, brunette with striking green eyes. Hoping to meet a mature gent of older years. **Text Only. Box: 4036001**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 56yrs. Slim, brunette who loves life. I'm very passionate and loving. Call me if you are interested. I will reply to all calls and texts. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429043**

SUSANNA, 42yrs, very attractive well groomed married lady. Works in London, can travel anywhere but cannot accommodate. If you are willing to meet on those terms contact me. **Text Only. Box: 4038007**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 44yrs, easygoing, solvent with OHAC. If you are down to earth and loving call me. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429041**

MONICA, strict german lady, 32yrs, wanting to meet a submissive, easygoing gent of any age. South East/London only pls. **Text Only. Box: 4079865**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 70yrs young, slim, fit and young for my age. I'm hoping to meet a kind gent, must have GSOH, age/looks unimportant. Must be smart and good company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429039**

AISHA, petite Asian lady, just 23yrs, living at home but hoping to meet a sophisticated, well travelled man to teach me the ways of the world. Pls be discreet as my parents are very strict. **Text only. Box : 4003844**

NANCY, 40 something years young. Attractive, fun loving and kind. Hoping to meet gent for trips, particularly around Cornwall which I love. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429037**

TABITHA, attractive well groomed lady, 32yrs, own house, good job, hoping for some naught text chat with older gent. **Text Only. Box: 4028177**

PAULINE, Sincere lady, 70s, GSOH, OH&C. Curvy with shoulder length dark hair. Varied interests, theatre and travel. WLTM similar minded gent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428977**



Customer support
Call **0207 720 7130** Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks no strings casual fun. I have my own house, car and am solvent. I'm busty with a firm figure. You must be open minded, age/status unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box: 427633**

KATHERINE, 59yrs, slim, attractive petite lady, loves the countryside, happy with the simple things in life. Hoping to meet like-minded chap, any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428975**

MARIELLE, 45yrs, curvy attractive lady, likes older men. I'm married so you must be discreet. Lets meet up, and make each other smile again. Call me and lets get to know each other. **Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box: 426853**



ATTRACTIVE lady, 44yrs, loves life, just missing a down to earth man. ACA/Text answered, contact me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428973**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

ATTRACTIVE lady, young looking 70s, retired nurse, hoping to find a nice gent for cinema, wining, dining, lives pleasures. I'm very kind and miss a mans pleasures. Please contact me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428971**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

SHEILA, 64yrs, attractive lady with blonde hair, varied interests and GSOH. WLTM interesting gent. Looks unimportant, must have GSOH. Call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428967**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 45yrs, loves animals, music, socialising. If you have similar interests then call or text me. Lets meet up and spend time together. Looks unimportant, must have GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428811**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

TAKE a chance on me. Beryl, honest black lady. Seeking a gent 50-75 ish. who will treat me with respect. I will be respectful to you, mutual fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428809**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

MERRY widow, 64yrs, lonely and kind. Hoping to meet a kind gent, please call, you won't be sorry, I'm good company and will care for you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428805**

MICHELLE, 44yrs, attractive lady, great company, hoping to meet mature gent 50+ for loving relationship. ACA/Text answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428803**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427**

IF you want to meet a mature busty blonde lady then look no further. Call me, I'm interested in meeting a man who wants a physical relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428799**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851**

SUSAN, articulate interesting lady, 60yrs, loves countryside and music. Hoping to meet a genuine man of any age. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428797**

VICTORIA, 46yrs, bubbly outgoing nurse, petite pretty brunette. WLTM N/S man, any age, must have GSOH and be kind. ACA. Or text. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428489**

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received. mydate24

MALE, 5ft8, brown hair, blue eyes, new to Ashford, been here 3 years, OHOC, looking to get out and about again. Give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 429105**

HI I'm John, 65, 5ft11, medium build, N/S, driver, WLTM a lady to take out for meals, cinema, theatre and days out. It would just be nice to meet someone. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428991**

MALE, modern dresser, likes driving to the coast and different places, looking for someone 60-70, possibly who can drive same as me, just to go out and enjoy life and have a laugh. It would be nice to have someone on my arm and to bring flowers to. Call me and let's have a chat. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428771**

RICHARD, 55, looking for lady for outings, meals out, pubs etc. New to area and lonely. East Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428631**

NICE looking male, 55, seeks mature female for fun, outings and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334975**

MALE, 42, married and bored, looking for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428599**

SMART Thanet male, 70, dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft5, OHOC, likes travel, countryside, the sea, walking, looking for an attractive local lady, for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428303**

ATTRACTIVE male, dark hair, brown eyes, 5ft5, solvent, own bungalow and car, likes travel, countryside, seaside, walking, looking for attractive local lady for LTR. Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428127**

GENUINE retired, mature widower, honest, kind and considerate, enjoys most things, walking, countryside, seaside, seeking a lady for LTR, just wanting to share my life with somebody special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428023**

SOLVENT male, older but young at heart, looking for a young lady to wine and dine and spoil and pamper and in turn to pamper me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427443**

MALE, 55, WLTM a lady, 60-70, for discreet adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428039**

SINGLE dad of two, WLTM a single mum, for a proper relationship. Please get in contact I look forward to hearing from you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427999**

WELL off man, wanting a young lady for spoiling. I am a sugar daddy looking for a sugar baby. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427441**

JAMES, 43, genuine, witty, positive, kind and caring, loves travel, socialising, eating out and lots and lots of laughs with the right person, looking for genuine, friendly lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428019**

MALE 60, 6ft, blue eyes, broad shoulders, size 11 shoes, a real handful! Seeks a fit mature busty woman for fun times. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6001755**

THANET male, retired, 5ft5, dark hair, smart, OHOC, likes walks, travel in motorhome, looking for a single, attractive lady with similar interests in Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427557**

TALL, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks tactile lady for company and jolly jaunts. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021**

MALE, 58, slim build, 5ft9, brown eyes, hard working, enjoys fishing and socialising, looking for no stings attached fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427173**

HI ladies, looking for either NSA fun or LTR. I am single/work/live in own house. **Text only. Mailbox: 4509325**

LOCAL 70 year old young male, now single, nice appearance and dresser, looking for fun and friendship with a lady, 55-70, possible holidays. Can travel. Please ring. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426897**



LIVELY mature gent, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yo. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621**

CARING, sociable male, 72, N/S, likes all types of music, walking, meals out, looking for a lady for friendship at first. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426865**

KENT man, retired engineer, solvent, enjoys holidays, meals out, good conversation, WLTM a slim lady, 60-70, with a GSOH, to share these times and hopefully become friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426887**



RETIRED, smart, 68 year old, 5ft5, I enjoy eating out, walking, holidays and golf, WLTM a slim, attractive lady, 60-68, for a loving, tender relationship, to enjoy these times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421853**

MALE divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

BARRY, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195**

GUY, 50, 6ft tall, calm and kind, good company, seeking lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425369**

JERRY, 66, brown hair, brown eyes, recently widowed, love to walk my dog, WLTM compatible lady for companionship and to see where things go. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426387**

LOCAL man, seeks lady for friendship possibly more, for romantic dates and good times together, hope to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426195**

MALE, 55, looking for no strings attached friendship, with a lady 60-70, any status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426133**

Gay Seeking

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GAY male, 74yrs, sub, slim, seeks dom gay male, N/S, any age, for mutual enjoyment. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6078625**

MALE, 50s, likes to cross dress, looking for same for friendship and fun. Has to be discreet. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 4623598**

JOHN, young at heart 65, bi male, looking for casual fun with likeminded male. Maidstone Kent area. Must be discreet. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5657306**

GAY guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

EASY going guy, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411413**

ROB, bi-curious male, 55, seeks likeminded male, crossdresser/TV. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426287**

BI male 68 slim looking for similar male who can accommodate. **Text only Mailbox: 5585368**

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Mister Maker role is 'dream job' for former Rainham school boy

By Luke May

luke.may@archant.co.uk



DREAM JOB: Former BBC Radio Kent presenter Phil Gallagher is celebrating a decade of success

WITH Mister Maker set to wow crowds this coming week, the show's lead actor has called the role his "dream job."

On the 10th anniversary of the show's creation, Mister Maker & The Shapes will be performing two shows at the Orchard Theatre on Sunday, October 28.

Now a favourite among pre-school children and their parents, the show has found success off screen, carrying out extensive touring across the country.

After a decade in the role, actor and screenwriter Phil Gallagher, originally from Gillingham, is full of praise for the team around him.

The former BBC Radio Kent presenter said: "It sounds a cliché, but being Mister Maker is my dream job. I always wanted to be a children's television presenter - from an early age - and to be one now, on a show that encourages fun and creativity, is a dream come true.

"I have always loved making things and being creative. From a very young age. And now as a 40-year-old big kid, I am no different. My house is covered in glitter, sticky tape and googly eyes, but I don't mind, because arts and craft has become my life. Being Mister Maker is a fantastic job because when I'm not touring, I put my producer hat on and work on our next show, song or arty creation.

"I am part of a very small team that creates the TV show. We all pitch in ideas and help each other. We have a wonderful art team who are so passionate about making the best show we can and their ideas for the programme are always incredible."

The show will also stop off at the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells on Thursday, October 26.

The former Rainham Mark Grammar School and Canterbury Christ Church University student revealed what the live show offers.

He said: "It is a big, bright, bold and happy live party, celebrating creativity and fun. It has art at its heart but also includes a lot of the things that make live theatre exciting - singing, dancing, audience interaction and The Shapes."

Tickets for both the Dartford and Tunbridge Wells Mister Maker dates are available via http://mistermakerlive.co.uk/tickets/4584627240.

Ashford's ghost stories



THE author of paranormal book Haunted Ashford will be telling spooky stories at Revelation next week. Neil Arnold will share stories followed by a screening of The Woman in Black. Tickets: 01233 663201.

Paint the Town at festival

A WEEK-long arts festival bringing together theatre shows, public workshops and live music arrives in Chatham next week.

Paint the Town starts at the Brook Theatre on Monday, running throughout the week with a number of craft stalls and local groups all involved. See more at www.lyriciarts.com.

City festival continues



CANTERBURY Festival will be featuring a number of events as it enters its second and penultimate week.

Live music, art galleries and workshops will all be running as part of the city's festival.

Penshurst's awards nod

PENSHURST Place and Gardens has been shortlisted for two wedding accolades.

The historic house is in the running for two categories at the Kent Wedding Awards 2017, as it was shortlisted for Heritage Wedding Venue of the Year and overall best Wedding Venue.

Winners are announced on November 9.



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Greek and British jazz night



VASILIS Xenopoulos and the Nigel Price Quintet will be bringing their swining sound to the Folkestone Jazz Club next month. The night of Greek/British jazz arrives November 9, tickets via 01303 277175.

Autumn at Walmer Castle

WALMER Castle and Gardens is inviting families to visit over the half term.

Children will be able to build dens, create their own flag and take part in rifle drills under the strict eye of a uniformed soldier, with activities for adults too. Tickets on the day, info at www.english-heritage.org.uk/walmercastle.

Young jazz band coming



THE National Youth Jazz Orchestra has announced a date at Margate's Theatre Royal on March 16 next year.

A showcase for burgeoning talent, tickets are already available at 01843 292795.

Pop divas in Gravesend

A HOST of tribute acts will be bringing the sound of pop divas including Katy Perry and Adele to Gravesend next week.

On Monday, October 23, Woodville Theatre's Pop Divas night will fill with the sounds of top music acts including Little Mix, Rihanna and Taylor Swift, tickets via woodville.seatlive.com.

Dreamland set to host ska bands old and new

By Luke May
luke.may@archant.co.uk



SOME of the biggest names on the ska and punk scenes will be heading to Margate next year.

Undercover Festival, which brings together a number of genres, has announced its full line-up for the event in April next year.

Promising a unique setting, Dreamland Margate is hosting the two day festival alongside retro rides and amusements.

Friday will see The Blockheads, who rose to fame playing alongside Ian Dury, headline, while Saturday will see Jimmy Pursey, Dave Parsons and Dave Tregunna all play as headlining punk rockers Sham 69.

Roddy Radiation from The Specials will be performing with The Skabilly Rebels, while a Sex Pistols tribute band will also rile up crowds with their take on the anarchic band.

The festival is filled with modern-day talent too, seven-piece ska-punk heavyweights King Punch will be performing, after they opened the Crazy Calamities stage at Boomtown Festival in August.

Other names to look out for include Sonic Boom Six, Chelsea and Eddie and the Hot Rods.

The festival also boasts a number of alternative rock and acoustic musicians across the weekend.

Undercover Festival organiser, Nick Moriarty said: "When we said it was the home we were looking for since we started as a festival in 2013, we meant it and I am pleased to be able to announce that we will be back at Dreamland Margate for April 13 and 14 in 2018.

"Plans are in place for an even better Undercover VI, we are putting the finishing touches to what we believe is a mouth-watering alternative music event.

"I thought we could not beat the line-up we had for 2017, but I think we may have, our message to everyone is come along and see what all the fuss is about."

Tickets are available online now via https://undercoverfest.com/.



HIT ME: The Blockheads will headline the festival in April.



RETRO: Dreamland's rides will be open to music lovers

SAVE £10



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Mash Report comedian coming to Canterbury

Fresh off an Edinburgh Fringe Festival run, Ellie Taylor will be performing at the Marlowe Theatre

ONE of the leading stars of new BBC comedy The Mash Report will be performing to crowds in Canterbury next week.

Ellie Taylor's year so far has been nothing short of busy, after joining the new satire show on BBC Two, and recently completing a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the comedian is now on a 20 date tour of the UK.

That tour brings the 33-year-old to the Marlowe Theatre on Thursday, October 28.

Ahead of the date, Mrs Taylor said: "The Fringe was a great warm up in preparation for this tour.

"It drums your show into your head and you really get to refine every joke which is part of the process I really enjoy, trimming all the fat so all that's left is comedy sinew."

For her tour, titled This Guy, Ellie will be asking crowds the important questions on parenthood, how do you know if you're ready? Should you just take the risk? What if the child has a monobrow?

The presenter, actress and comedian explained where inspiration for the tour comes from: "My shows have so far tended to be about what stage I'm at in life.

"I did one about wanting to get married, then one about being married and wishing I'd slept with more people, my husband was delighted.

"This one is about the supposed next step, the pressure to have a baby.



COMEDY: Ellie Taylor says she has the maternal instinct of pitta bread

Problem is, I have the maternal instinct of pitta bread and now all of my friends are shooting out kids.

"It's like the domino effect, if the dominos were all infant humans who love Peppa Pig and soil themselves.

One half of The Mash Report's 'newsdesk', together with Gravesend comedian and BBC Radio Kent presenter Steve N Allen, Mrs Taylor has already appeared in a number of other shows, including Live at the Apollo, Mock the Week, Disney's The Lodge, even presenting reality hit Snog, Marry, Avoid.

And with the impressive portfolio of performances under her belt, the Basildon-born joker revealed one of her most favourite moments.

"My most memorable gig would be doing BBC's Live at the Apollo at the Hammersmith Apollo last year, what a venue.

"Whatever happens going forward, even if I end up back being the world's worst PA, I am so proud that I got to walk on that incredible stage and that my parents were in the audience to see me do it. One of the best days of my life. It's up there with the day Jedward started following me on Twitter."

Mrs Taylor is set to appear on our screens again in the weeks as part of Josh Widdecombe's BBC sitcom Josh, before returning on The Mash Report later this year.

Tickets for Ellie Taylor at the Marlowe Theatre are available at: http://socomedy.co.uk/artist/ellie-taylor/ or by calling 01227 787787.

Forest Live reveal gig

PAUL Heaton & Jacqui Abbott will be supported by Billy Bragg when they play Forest Live at Bedgebury Pinetum in Tunbridge Wells next year.

The duo, along with special guest Bragg, are playing the Forestry Commission-organised summer concert series, which runs up and down the country.

They will play Bedgebury Pinetum on June 16, tickets at www.forestry.gov.uk/music.

Dusty musical in town

A MUSICAL boasting the greatest hits of Dusty Springfield starts a five night run at the Assembly Hall in Tunbridge Wells.

On Tuesday, X Factor's Diana Vickers and Coronation Street actress Debra Stephenson will perform in Son of a Preacher Man, a story three broken hearts, one Soho hangout, and the only man who could ever help them, with choreography by Craig Revel Horwood. Tickets available via 01892 530613.

Ghost hunting at castle

FRIGHT-seekers are invited to visit Dover Castle this half term to join in its Halloween celebrations.

With its 2,000 year history, there have been a number of ghostly sightings, and guided tours throughout the coming week will take visitors through some of the castle's haunted hotspots, includings its Tunnel of Terror.

Prices: £19.40 adults; £17.50 concessions; £11.60 for children; £50.40 for a family.

Hazlitt's Dirty Dancing

GET ready for the time of your life as a tribute to Dirty Dancing comes to Maidstone next month.

An Evening of Dirty Dancing is the original concert ceelbration of the iconic film's award-winning soundtrack

A high energy, emotional roller-coaster of an evening with breathtaking choreography and buckets of nostalgia, the performances come to the Hazlitt Theatre on November 4.





ENJOY FIENDISH FAMILY FUN THIS HALLOWEEN!

TREAT OR TREAT?

28–31 OCTOBER

Kids – come in scary fancy dress! Pick up a free collecting cauldron from the Children's Department at Next and fill it up with treats from Whitefriars stores displaying the Treat or Treat pumpkin*!

FACE PAINTING

28 OCTOBER 11am–4pm

Receive a Halloween makeover at Cowling & Wilcox opposite Fenwick... if you dare!

** See **www.whitefriars.eu** for collection points*

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CANTERBURY

GROOMBRIDGE PLACE

Spooktacular Fun this Hallowe'en

21st - 29th October 2017 10m-4pm



Come along to Groombridge Place this Hallowe'en for a scaryingly good time ~ meet Captain Robinson Crusoe and his Crew of Skeletons who on one stormy night over a century ago, were ship wrecked in our Enchanted Forest.

Book tickets online and save 10%

Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum

The Spitfire and Hurricane Museum is a unique site housing a **Supermarine Spitfire Mk XVI** and the **Hawker Hurricane IIC** as well as a host of objects and artefacts which help tell the story of life in and around Ramsgate during WWII. An absolute must visit, photography is welcome and best of all, it's free to visit too!

In addition to the collection, the museum also boasts a small shop and a fantastic café which serves teas, coffees and quality hot food.


Supermarine Spitfire Mk XVI(LF) TB752


Hawker Hurrican IIC LF751

Most important of all, there is the Allied Crew Memorial Garden where all visitors are welcome to sit on the benches to relax and reflect in an evocative atmosphere.

The museum also offers bespoke education sessions and can accommodate group or coach bookings.

Opening Hours

10am - 5pm (Summer) | 10am - 4pm (Winter)

There will be a ghostly trail at the Museum during Halloween half term.

Closed Mondays in January and February

- Free Admission
- Free Car and Coach Parking
- Disabled Access
- Merlin Café open daily

The Spitfire & Hurricane Memorial Museum, Manston Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 5DF

Tel: 01 843 821 940 | Email: enquiries@spitfiremuseum.org.uk

www.spitfiremuseum.org.uk

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RAF Manston Spirtfire & Hurrucan Memorial Trust. Museum Registration 1991. Registered Charity No. 298229

How to add sophistication and style to your decorations this Halloween

Six alternative ways you can impress your guests with spooky intrigue as the festive season rapidly approaches



By Gabrielle Fagan
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HALLOWEEN - when we celebrate all things spooky - doesn't mean you have to embrace frightful style.

It's perfectly possible to take a walk on the dark side, with sophisticated and playful decor touches that create drama, conjure a bewitching setting and last way beyond October 31.

Be brave and take on the twilight trend...

Embrace dark but dreamy decor

If you love living on the dark side year-round, make a statement with a Halloween Mural depicting a haunted night sky, available from £26 per square metre.

Alternatively, a Haunted House Mural, from £29 per square metre, could be fun for an occasion like a party. Simply add candles and skulls for a spellbinding effect.



Pimp your pumpkin

It's the traditional symbol of the festival, but if you'd rather avoid the chore of carving your own Jack O' Lantern (and want to preserve your fingers), there are plenty of alternatives around.

Invest in our feathered friends

Ravens, witches' familiars in fairy stories, and flocks of crows are essential elements of a gothic setting, whether they are safely caged or flying free.

Celebrate the Day of the Dead

If the setting's too gloomy for your taste, bring in colour with vibrant items evoking the spirit of the Day of the Dead, the annual celebration in Mexico.

Skull-shaped seat and/or side table's designed to send shivers up your spine are all available.

Design a ghostly banquet

Transform a table with a creative setting. Simply lower the lights and make the table a focal point by decorating with a string of pumpkin lights, as well as individually lit pumpkins, and ramp up the eeriness with skull-decorated plates and accessories.

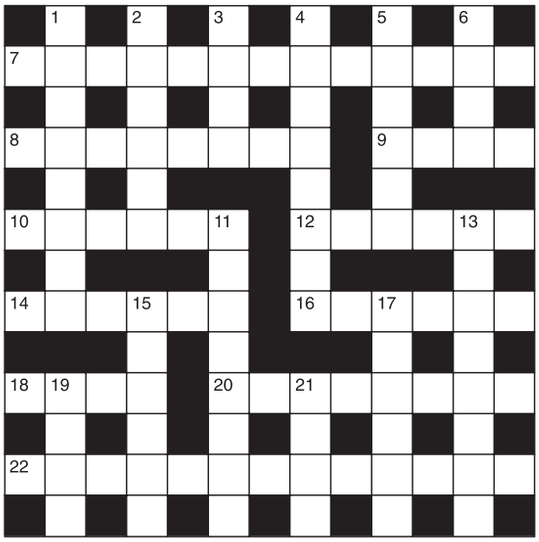
Light up a twilight zone

Flickering candlelight will cast magical shadows (though go for artificial candles, which are safer, if children are around).



PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

Across

7. Slight illness (13)
8. Scatter (8)
9. Nemesis (4)
10. Cosmetics (4-2)
12. Violation (6)
14. Resolve (6)
16. Hostility (6)
18. Close (4)
20. Shyness (8)
22. Wrongdoing (13)

Down

1. Point out (8)
2. Easy (6)
3. Goad (4)
4. Gather (8)
5. Choke (6)
6. Expense (4)
11. Glamour (8)
13. Official mention (8)
15. Concentrating (6)
17. Humble (6)
19. Fling (4)
21. Manner (4)

Cryptic

Across

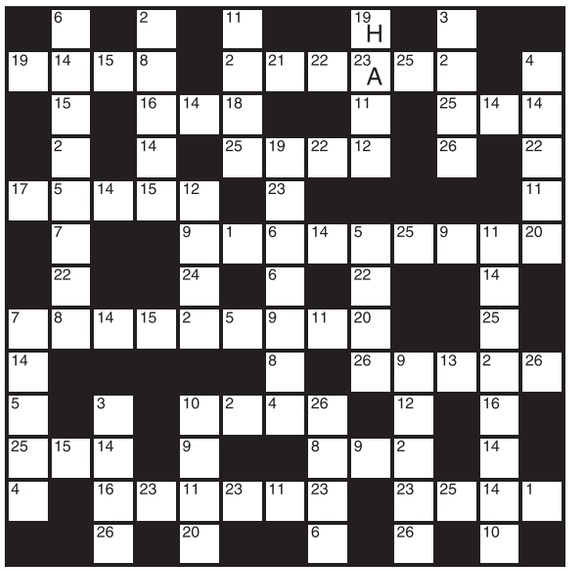
7. Proposition for balancing extremes by legal means? (3,2,8)
8. Scare one side in marshy ground (8)
9. Visit about everyone (4)
10. 100 go on stage with American prickly plant (6)
12. The scope of the next enterprise (6)
14. Initially the editor's approach sets every reader a difficult problem (6)
16. Make great efforts in making fast river craft (6)
18. A twinkling performer, no doubt (4)
20. It is annoying and may make a few weary (8)
22. What puts autocratic teachers among the aristocracy? (6,7)

Down

1. Legitimate target in reasonable match? (4,4)
2. Fail to remember counterfeit letter (6)
3. Not a complete role? (4)
4. Enthusiasm for being sharp? (8)
5. Talisman taken from mother by North Briton (6)
6. Transaction in wood (4)
11. Gets a try using different tactics (8)
13. Month when revolutionary mob never appears? (8)
15. Tories out in a raid (6)
17. Is planted among the others to offer opposition (6)
19. Excursion visiting ancient city (4)
21. List of names in revolution? (4)

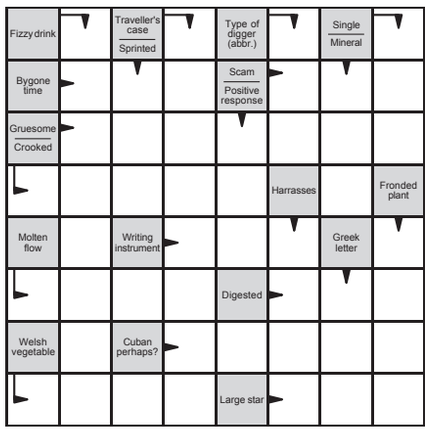
CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter.
For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.





Arrowword



Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

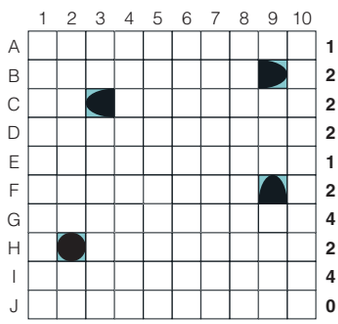
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

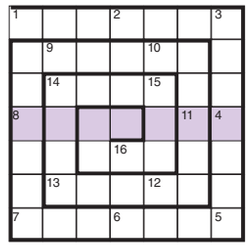
THE FLEET

1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine





Word Spiral



Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Repair
2. Unable to hear
3. Fronded plant
4. Eyrie, say
5. Snare
6. Cougar
7. Unfortunately
8. Predatory bird
9. Soon
10. Hitlerite
11. Mosque prayer leader
12. Thin fog
13. Stumble
14. Table game
15. Not short
16. Lass

Keyword clue: A cut of beef

SUDOKU

Hard

2						4		
					9			7
		9		8			6	5
	8				5		9	
		5	1	6	8	2		
	3		2				5	
9	1			7				
4			6					
		3						6

Easy

2		4						3
	6				8		1	
	8		2	4	3	7		6
		2			5	4	6	9
	9			1	7			8
5	4	8				1		
		1	7		4		9	
	5		1				7	
9				5		3		1

Solutions

Arrowword

Battleships

Double Crossword

Cryptic
Across: 7 Law of averages; 8 Frighten; 9 Call; 10 Cactus; 12 Extent; 14 Teaser; 16 Strive; 18 Star; 20 Tiresome; 22 Rulling classes. Down: 1 Fair game; 2 Forget; 3 Part; 4 Keenness; 5 Mascot; 6 Deal; 11 Strategy; 13 November; 15 Sortie; 17 Resist; 19 Tour; 21 Roll.
Quick
Across: 7 Indisposition; 8 Disperse; 9 Fate; 10 Make-up; 12 Breach; 14 Decide; 16 Enmity; 18 Shut; 20 Timidity; 22 Transgression.
Down: 1 Indicate; 2 Simple; 3 Spur; 4 Assemble; 5 Stifle; 6 Cost; 11 Prestige; 13 Citation; 15 Intent; 17 Modest; 19 Hunt; 21 Mien.
Codeword
1=M, 2=E, 3=J, 4=Y, 5=R, 6=P, 7=F, 8=L, 9=I, 10=K, 11=N, 12=D, 13=Z, 14=O, 15=W, 16=B, 17=C, 18=X, 19=H, 20=G, 21=Q, 22=A, 24=V, 25=T, 26=S
Word Spiral
1 Mend; 2 Deaf; 3 Fern; 4 Nest; 5 Trap; 6 Puma; 7 Alas; 8 Skua; 9 Anon; 10 Nazi; 11 Inam; 12 Mist; 13 Tip; 14 Pool; 15 Long; 16 Girl.
Keyword: Silicon

Sudoku - Hard

2	5	7	3	1	6	4	8	9
8	6	1	5	4	9	3	2	7
3	4	9	7	8	2	1	6	5
1	7	2	3	8	5	4	6	9
6	9	3	4	1	7	5	2	8
5	4	8	9	2	6	3	1	7
9	3	6	8	5	4	7	9	2
4	5	9	1	3	8	6	7	2
7	2	4	5	6	9	8	1	3

Sudoku - Easy

9	2	7	8	5	6	3	4	1
4	5	6	1	3	9	8	7	2
8	3	1	7	2	4	6	9	5
5	4	8	6	9	2	1	3	7
6	9	3	4	1	7	5	2	8
7	1	2	3	8	5	4	6	9
1	8	9	2	4	3	7	5	6
3	6	5	9	7	8	2	1	4
2	7	4	5	6	1	9	8	3

High-octane holiday heaven... and I love it

Emily Cotton's not one to lie on a beach and grill in the sunshine. For her, a holiday is a chance to unchain herself from the desk and computer and get moving – the way nature designed us to



■ Club La Santa, on the western edge of Lanzarote and jam-packed with physical activities. Picture: CLUB LA SANTA

In just two days at Club La Santa I ran a total of 8km, hit the gym, took a Pilates class, a gymnastics class and a kettlebell class, swam in a pool and open water, learnt to play squash, taught myself to paddleboard and hiked up a volcano.

To many people this may sound like a nightmare of a holiday... but to me, and to the thousands of others that descend upon Club La Santa, on the western edge of Lanzarote, this is a dream.

Why? Because, with a schedule jam-packed with physical activities and a ridiculous amount of sport facilities, people here find bliss in relaxing in a slightly more energetic fashion.

With the ability to accommodate about 1,600 exercise-loving guests at any one time, the atmosphere on the complex is incredibly positive and uplifting, with natural camaraderie igniting among like-minded people. Even on an early-morning walk around the resort – which alongside its sports facilities comes complete with three restaurants, a sports and pool bar, multiple shops and a supermarket – you'll be sure to find friends, new and old, running laps around the track, swimming lengths in the natural lagoon or cycling around the surrounding lunar landscape.

The fitness classes and training sessions at Club La Santa are for all ages and abilities. Whether you're an exercise novice, an elite athlete or somewhere in-between, the weekly schedule is sure to include something you will find challenging, yet still enjoy.

With over 40 different sports and activities to get involved in, it is likely there will be something new to get your teeth into, too.

With sports that are not entirely familiar, the resort's Green Team is always on hand for coaching and instruction. Made up of about 40 instructors, coaches and guides, the Green Team is the heart of Club La Santa, and organises the free classes, tournaments and social races held each week.

With Club La Santa surrounded by desert land, mountains and volcanoes, trekking is another popular workout choice. The views from the top of the nearby Pico Soo Volcano are definitely worth the three-hour hike.

■ Prices start from £644 for a seven-night stay in a "comfort" one-bedroom apartment at Club La Santa (which sleeps up to three adults and one child under 15 years). Call 01617 909890 or visit www.clublasanta.co.uk

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Sleeping through the Great Storm

ON reading your article regarding the Great Storm 1987, I thought you might like to know that my husband Richard & I slept through it!

We did not hear a thing. It wasn't until the next morning when he gave me a lift to work up at Beltinge (having come home from trying to get to his place of work, Allenvale Tools along the Thanet Way) that we saw trees down here and there, plus the side wall of a house missing and chimney pots down from off roofs.

That we were amazed! Richard said we must have had a storm in the night. Famous last words!

Pauline Turner,
Herne Bay

May still remains best for the job

THE letters from Mr Nokes and Mr Mair and the editor's editorial [KoS, 8.10] inspired me to express my version of events.

Many very valid views were expressed by these letter writers, although I think the editorial was a description of any set of cynical politicians and does not truly reflect the present situation.

If there was a highly inspirational Tory, with commanding personality and ability available, then Theresa May would be obliged to concede, but there is no such person, as her alternatives are merely adequate.

The referendum is still being heralded as democracy at its best.

The fact that the wishes of just under half the voters had to be ignored gives a lie to this.

Our country's democratic validity was, in fact, May's decision to leave the EU, based on the referendum but more importantly realising the insanity of a sovereign country being run by outsiders.

Lack of judgement, regarding the snap election could be levelled at her if it was in defiance of her cabinet but that was not so; no one predicted a hung parliament.

Brexit was always going to be a complicated and protracted procedure, so being a part of this is hardly a point for criticism.

The necessary toughness of a leader, she demonstrated she had, when despite a voice-affecting cold and an idiot intruder, she led her party conference as well as could be expected in such circumstances

D R Hedges,
Chatham

Reject enemies of our democracy

JOHN Dutton's letter on the EU is so full of factual errors that it is unworthy of a response, but he clearly possesses all the arrogance of those on the Remain side.

For many years those who oppose EU membership have have been described as xenophobes and racists by the Europhiles, and now they have added morons, or gullible fools, to the list, while too many of us have treated Remainers as misguided, but nevertheless decent people basically concerned with the future of the country.

From now on we must describe them, and treat them, as either fools or knaves. The former are idiots, who refuse to recognize the truth about the EU, and swallow whole the propaganda pumped out by the BBC, and much of the media.

They include all those business people, who completely fail to understand that the issue is not one of their profits, but of the survival of our democracy.

The knaves, who know what is involved, yet still support it, are far worse. Those who genuinely wish to hand control of this country to an alien bureaucracy based in Brussels, are nothing less than agents of a foreign power.

As far as the continentals are concerned, while we seek friendship with the peoples, those who control the EU, in particular the European Commission, are not what our politicians call them, friends or partners, but opponents and indeed adversaries. They have treated the people of the this county as fools, and seek to humble the nation to which most of them owe the freedom they have enjoyed since the defeat of the totalitarians.

Our useless political class may desire to crawl to them but, by doing so, they bring shame on us all, and should be rejected as unworthy to represent the British people. We must not follow the president of Catalonia, who has decided to join the prime minister of Greece in emulating the Grand Old Duke of York.

If Brexit is reversed then democracy in this country no longer has any meaning. We shall be trapped in the EU until its internal contradictions destroy it, but that could take years, and our people will suffer under a foul dictatorship until then. The message must be "Go now!" and the enemies of democracy, both in parliament and outside, must be rejected by all decent people.

Colin Bullen,
Tonbridge

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Our air is a lot cleaner with Manston gone

WHY anyone would want to keep Manston as an airport is beyond me, unless by doing so it is profitable to them.

This being the case, yes, they would rally up support by the usual jump-on-the-bandwagon brigade, whom latch onto each and every cause that turns up on the horizon.

Thanet is a lovely place to live, the power station's long gone, the airport too, no more planes that flew noisily overhead, the air is a lot cleaner.

Statistics show a higher rate of heart disease and strokes, living under a flight path or near an airport. Scientists propose night flights causing sleep disturbances is another factor for heart disease.

Then we have the plane's exhaust – toxic pollutants which kill more than 10,000 each year. Plane emissions contain sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

The particles are so tiny, the size of the width of a human hair, they get breathed in and wedged in the lungs and can enter the bloodstream.

Have you got or seen a child with asthma, gasping for breath, only to breathe in pollutants? A friend, relation, dying from lung cancer suffering intense pain?

These are the important things, not who will profit from whatever. We need clean fresh air for everyone to breathe. We live at the seaside, and Thanet is improving all the time, let's keep it that way.

We live in 2017, and there is a terrorism threat in England, Manston would surely make a prime target. No one wants to live where there are planes flying overhead spoiling our enjoyment, or holiday where the din of the planes is all that is heard. Maybe the ones whom want the airport do not want to live underneath the flight path, but the ones that do live under the flight path do not want Manston Airport revived.

Mike White
from Ramsgate

More debate on homes needed

AS a local resident of Margate, I know I can't be alone in worrying about our housing situation and where the next generation are going to live?

Surely, with an election around the corner, there needs to be more of a serious local debate about the homes we desperately need in our community.

The increasing need for affordable homes and big shortfall in supply means house prices are becoming out of reach of our pay packets. Home ownership is at its lowest level since 1987 and renting from the private sector is eating up more and more of our hard earned salaries.

I am part of the Yes to Homes campaign, which is helping to create a lifeline for people who are renting, trying to get on the housing ladder, or stuck at home with only dreams of moving out.

We all need to be prepared to join in the local debate with our Margate councillors to tackle this problem, and think about how we can get the right homes in the right places at prices that are affordable for everybody in the borough. We need more local voices saying Yes to Homes so our community leaders take notice, and more importantly action, to deliver those homes.

Leela Neeladevi,
Margate

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8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent



Waves crashing in Margate

by **Rita Keatley**

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Isle of Wight Sounds of the 60s Carry on New Year Party

Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

Friday 5 January, 2018 • Quote: BE1-KOS

GN Holidays & Voyages are taking over Warner's Bembridge Coast hotel again in early January 2018 - our 10th year in a row. Our must-do annual party, for over 40s only, has guests returning year after year to 'Carry On' celebrating the New Year. With a packed entertainment programme featuring original 60s bands Union Gap UK and The Cufflinks plus The Beached Boys, Vicki Lambert's tribute to 60s divas, great food, Free drinks from 6pm to midnight nightly, and free car ferry crossing, a great start to 2018 is assured.

INCLUDED: Free drinks 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights standard en-suite chalet - upgrade to main hotel building from £30pp • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free car ferry crossing • Free parking



Suffolk 60s Seaside Party

WARNER LEISURE HOTELS

Warner Corton, Suffolk Coast

23 February, 2018 • Quote: CO2-KOS

The beautiful Suffolk coast is the location for Corton Coastal Village which has all the easy atmosphere of a holiday home, and the creature comforts Warner is famous for. Built on a chalet theme, the rooms have clapboard design, with fresh pastel interiors, and many have terraces overlooking the sea. Our 60s Sounds party weekend - for over 40s only - is packed with entertainment. We've lined up a brilliant showbill featuring 60s bands Union Gap UK, the New Honeycombs and Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations). With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is going to be a party weekend to remember.

INCLUDED: Free drinks 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free parking



Bringing On Back The 60s & 70s Party

Warner Lakeside, Haying Island

20 April, 2018 • Quote: LK4-KOS

GREAT entertainment, good food and a setting in 32 acres of grounds near the sea make Warner's Lakeside resort on the South Coast perfect for a spring getaway. Entertainment includes New Amen Corner's new show Bringing On Back The 60s plus a tribute to Abba and more. Add FREE drinks from 6pm-midnight and an allocated table for dining and entertainment that's yours for the weekend and this is one party you won't want to miss. Over-40s only.

INCLUDED: FREE bar 6pm-midnight every night – selected branded beers and spirits, house wine by the glass, selected soft drinks and mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights standard en-suite chalet accommodation – upgrades available • 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners • Free parking



Bringing On Back The Good Times All Star 60s Party

Warner Bembridge, Isle of Wight

21 Sept, 2018 • Quote: BE9-KOS

Join us at Warner Bembridge as our summer of fun continues with a packed entertainment programme featuring 60s sensation Marty Wilde and The Wildcats, Steve Ellis supported by Vanity Fare and Union Gap UK. With Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every evening, great entertainment and a free car ferry crossing, here's a party to add extra sizzle to your summer.

INCLUDED: Free drinks 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade to main hotel building available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free car ferry • Free parking

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FIRST: Kia Niro PHEV is the world's first compact crossover plug-in hybrid. Pictures: Kia

Kia Niro crossover plugs in to pure electric driving

KIA'S new plug-in hybrid Niro crossover offers the potential for more than 200mpg, CO2 emissions of 29g/km and up to 36 miles on a single battery charge.

The plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) is priced at £27,995 on the road after the £2,500 government plug-in car grant.

Taking two hours and 15 minutes to fully charge, the world's first compact crossover plug-in hybrid uses the same 104bhp 1.6-litre petrol engine as the parallel hybrid but paired with a more powerful 44.5kW (60bhp) electric motor and an 8.9kWh lithium-ion polymer battery pack, rather than the 1.56kWh system in the parallel hybrid, to give an electric range of up to 36 miles.

The two power units produce a combined 139bhp and 265Nm of torque for 0-60mph in 10.4 seconds and 107mph. Certified fuel consumption figure is 217.3mpg.

Drive to the front wheels is through a six-speed dual-clutch automatic gearbox rather than the continuously-variable transmission (CVT) used by most hybrids. This gives more direct and immediate response with greater refinement, and incorporates a manual sports mode.

The Niro PHEV has a number of innovations to help it use battery power efficiently and top up its batteries on the move, including:



Regenerative braking to recoup and store energy normally dissipated as heat.

Eco-Das (economy driver assistance system) uses satellite-navigation to identify when the driver can lift off the throttle to generate energy, and use eco and normal drive modes.

HEV (hybrid electric vehicle) select - EV (charge depletion) mode runs the car as a purely electric vehicle when there is enough battery energy and regenerates electrical power to recharge. HEV (charge sustaining) mode uses the petrol engine more with the battery pack charge constantly topped up for later use.

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Upmarket evolution for new Insignia

Vauxhall has moved its trusty Insignia range upmarket with the all-new hatchback version dubbed Grand Sport. Motoring editor Andy Russell finds out more

EVERY morning, walking the dog, I feel sorry for the driver of a 17-plate Vauxhall Insignia hatchback who bought it as Vauxhall launched the all-new Insignia Grand Sport.

The new model is bigger, more athletic looking, more upmarket, roomier, 175kg lighter, drives better, has more kit, features and technology, new engines, costs less to own and starts at nearly £1,500 less. So I hope they got a very large discount.

With dynamic coupe looks, the Grand Sport is sleeker – a lower roof, wider track, longer wheelbase and clever styling make it appear longer, wider and lower than it really is. It's all part of Vauxhall's quest to deliver what it calls an 'upscale quality feel'.

Turbo diesels - 110 and 136PS 1.6-litre and 170PS 2.0-litre – will be the fleet choices but, with more private motorists ditching derv, there are new 140 and 165PS 1.5-litre and 260PS 2.0-litre turbo petrols, the latter with an eight-speed automatic gearbox and all-wheel drive.

The 165PS petrol engine offers 40mpg, cruises at low revs in high gears but needs to be stirred into life with the six-speed gearshift.







What is very noticeable is how well the new Insignia drives. The cosseting ride has an extraordinary knack of soothing and smoothing all but the worst surfaces well with better steering feel and body control.

A longer wheelbase pays dividends in the cabin – average-sized adults have vast legroom but that sloping roof limits headroom. The well-trimmed cabin feels upmarket and high-mileage drivers will appreciate supportive seats.

The 490-litre hatch boot has wide, low access but is quite shallow. Rear seat backs fold flat 60/40 with the boot floor – a 40/20/40 set-up is optional.

All models get a WiFi hotspot for up to seven devices and updated OnStar personal assistant system to contact a call centre for booking hotels, restaurants or finding parking and downloading the destination to the sat-nav. Pay £290 for the head-up display for speed and limit, rev counter, traffic signs, sat-nav or audio.

The all-new Grand Sport is an upmarket evolution of the Insignia – more grand than sport – with top-end models aiming to mix it with premium brands while realistic pricing makes it better value.

Vauxhall Insignia Grand Sport

Price: **from £17,185**

Engine tested: **1,490cc, 165PS, four-cylinder turbo petrol with six-speed manual gearbox**

Performance: **0-62mph 8.4 seconds; top speed 138mph**

MPG: **Urban 38.7; extra urban 54.3; combined 47.1**

CO2 emissions: **136g/km**



C-HR Icon 5 door Coupe FWD 1.2T VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 38.1 (7.4), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 47.8 (5.9). CO2 Emissions 135g/km. Yaris Icon 5 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 45.6 (6.2), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO2 Emissions 109g/km. Auris Icon 5 door 1.6 D-4D Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 47.9 (5.9), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO2 Emissions 112g/km. Combined 94.1 (3.0). CO2 Emissions 70g/km. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 57.6 (4.9), Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 57.6 (4.9). CO2 Emissions 115g/km. All mpg and CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

*Model shown is C-HR Icon 5 door Coupe FWD 1.2 VVT-i Manual at £695 Advance Payment. Available as part of the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Please note that a total of 60,000 miles over three years are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Offer valid between 1st October and 31st December 2017.

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- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Committed to providing a quality clinical service

To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Liz Justice, Ward Manager on 01843 235012

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Part Time – 20 hour per week (Across 7 Day Working Rota) **Salary £7.69 per hour**
Closing Date – Ongoing **Interview Date – TBC**

Qualifications and Experience

- Previous housekeeping experience within a clinical environment
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The successful candidate for the role of Estate Planning Consultant will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Visiting new clients and existing clients in their homes, place of work or in the Heritage Offices advising them on estate planning solutions.
- Taking detailed instruction of Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Trusts.
- Build and maintain strong working relationships with new and existing clients.
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In order to be considered for the role of Estate Planning Consultant you will have gained the following skills and experience:

- GCSE English & Math
- A-Levels (Desirable)
- University Degree (Desirable)
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- The applicant will have a keen eye for detail, be a great listener and be passionate about the legal industry. Experience within the legal field is desirable, however not a necessity.
- Driving License and access to your own vehicle is essential
- Motivation, client focused and eager to learn are the key attributes for this role.
- Due to the nature of the job you will be looking at problems and formulating the best solution for the client, for that reason, evidence of problem solving and solution planning is advantageous.

In return you will benefit from working for a growing company in a role offering a competitive OTE and the opportunity to grow and develop in your career.

To apply for the role of Estate Planning Consultant please send an up to date cv to:
ocann@heritagewills.co.uk

Exhibition Stand Representative

Location: Kent area (mobile based role)
Hourly Rate: £7.50 p/h Plus Commission and Mileage
Position type: Part- time
(Thursday and Friday – 12 hour p/w contract)

Heritage Legal and Financial were established in 2001 and we have become East Anglia and the South East's leading dedicated Will writing service, serving tens of thousands of clients. As a result of company growth we currently have openings for an Exhibition Stand Representative to join our team and be based in the Norfolk area or around Harlow, Huntingdon, or Cambridge locality. You will plan and carry out sales activities on assigned areas. You will be responsible for informing of and displaying products to customers and managing service expectations, quality of product and service delivery in a face to face environment.

The successful candidate for the role of Exhibition Stand Representative will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- Generate and partially qualify leads whilst presenting a positive impression of Heritage
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- Attend and assist with all events that require an exhibition stand i.e County fairs and local events
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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Licensing Act 2003
Application for a New Premises Licence

Name of Applicant: Rodmersham Cricket Club Management Committee

Premises: Rodmersham Cricket Club

Proposed Licensable activities:

Indoor sporting & Supply of alcohol : Mon-Thurs 11.00-23.00, Friday & Saturday 11.00-00.30, Sunday 12.00-22.30.

Recorded music, Performance of dance : Friday & Saturday 11.00-00.30.

Live music : Friday & Saturday 11.00-00.00

Late night refreshment : Friday & Saturday 23.00-00.30

An extra hour on Bank Holidays, New Years Eve and Christmas Eve.

End of consultation : 13th November 2017

Any objections to this application must be made in writing to The Licensing Department

Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 3HT

Objections must be received within 28 days of the date of this notice.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable, on summary conviction, to a maximum fine of £5,000

LICENSING ACT 2003:
Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Adam Smith of 56 Castle Street, Canterbury CT12PY has applied to Canterbury City Council for the VARIATION STATEMENT of a Premises Licence. Water Lane café is applying to have its current premise licence hours extended enabling the service of food and alcohol. Currently Water Lane Café trades 0800-1730 Monday to Friday, 0800-1800 Saturday and 0800-1700 Sunday with alcohol service starting each day at 1000 and finishing 30mins prior to closure. We request an extension of hours trading to public to 0800-2200 Monday to Thursday, 0800-2300 Friday and Saturday and Sunday 0800-1800. Alcohol service would still commence at 1000 each day and finish 30minutes prior to new closing times for the premises Water Lane Cafe, Units 3 & 4, 22-24 Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NQ

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at http://www.canterbruy.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 17/11/2017.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Stephen Paget trading as HY-Scaff Scaffolding of Vantage Point, Snodland By Pass, Holborough Road, Snodland ME6 5SL is applying to change an exisiting licence as follows to add an operating centre to keep 5 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Unit 13 Apex Business Park, Queens Farm Road, Lower Shorne DA12 3HU.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

Shakey wins sixth superbike crown

The Sittingbourne rider defended his title for the first time

Motorsport

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT'S Shane 'Shakey' Byrne clinched an unprecedented sixth British Superbike Championship title in dramatic style at Brands Hatch last weekend, as the title fight went down to the wire in the final race of the season.

Leon Haslam and defending champion Byrne were separated by just two points ahead of the crucial decider at the Kent circuit.

The title contenders were in formation, with Josh Brookes in fourth ahead of Haslam and Byrne, but the Australian knew he was still in contention and he was pushing to move through the field.

At the front Christian Iddon took the lead, but on lap six Haslam's title hopes ended in heartbreak as the JG Speedfit Kawasaki rider suffered brake failure on lap six.

The 'Pocket Rocket' had to jump off the bike at 172mph at Hawthorns and subsequently sustained a broken right wrist, right thumb and left ankle.

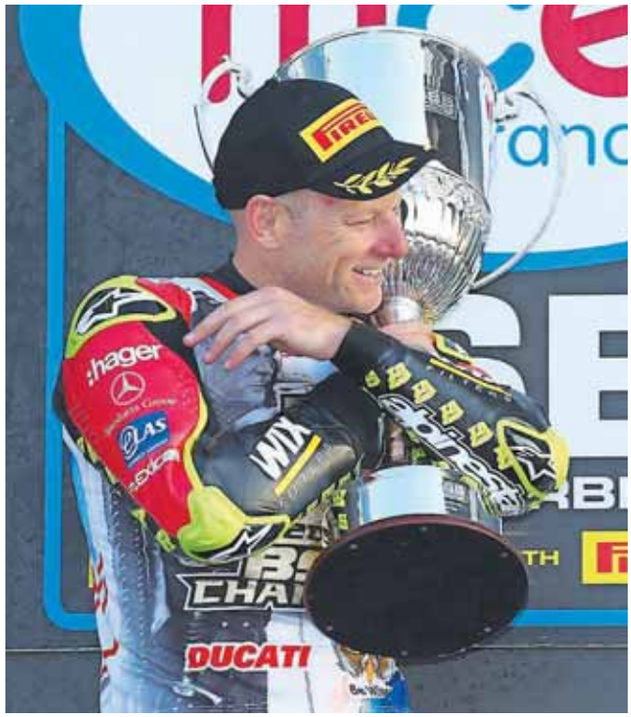
He heroically returned to the grid for the championship celebrations at the end of the race to congratulate Byrne on his title victory before heading to the medical centre.

Vyrne ended the race in eighth place but it was enough to mean he successfully defended his title for the first time in his career, finishing behind Michael Laverty, Iddon, Peter Hickman and Dan Linfoot.

The Sittingbourne rider said afterwards: "I came here thinking I'm 33 points behind Leon and he's such a tough competitor that I never envisaged being able to pull back 33 points, but what I did envisage was coming here to do the best job I possibly could this weekend and try and win three races.

"I hadn't actually won a race since we were here in July and that never happens. BSB is so tough right now that it's really, really difficult to win. We've ended up champions so I'm super, super happy to have defended the title. That's the one thing I wanted to do and we've got that done now so it's going to be a nice winter.

"I'll take a title in BSB however they come because they do not come on the back of Kelloggs' Frosties packets!"



WINNER: Shane 'Shakey' Byrne celebrates his sixth BSB title

Pictures: TIM KEETON

Ebbsfleet strike stadium sponsorship deal

Football

THE home of Ebbsfleet United will now be known as Kuflink Stadium after bosses shook hands on a landmark five-year sponsorship deal.

The Gravesend-based peer-to-peer lender says the agreement is part of its ongoing commitment to support the local community with a focus on sport, health and education.

It comes at a time of significant development within the stadium on Stonebridge Road, with a £5m main stand being completed over the summer, and planning permission secured to revamp the Plough End, which once complete will accommodate 1,750 supporters on standing terraces, along with an integrated hotel.

Ebbsfleet vice-chairman Peter Varney said: "We are very excited to be entering into a five-year commitment with Kuflink.

"I would like to thank all of the team at Kuflink for the confidence they have shown in the club by entering into a long-term agreement and all of us look forward to working with them on a range of community and commercial initiatives.

"It will be nice to work with a company that has such a strong community focus and shares our core values.

"I must also thank Dave Archer and his team for negotiating such a prestigious agreement to coincide with the opening of our new £5m main stand."

Harwinder Singh, founder of Kuflink, added: "Kuflink is excited to sponsor Ebbsfleet United and we look forward to working closely with them on a number of local community and commercial ventures."



HOME: Ebbsfleet's Kuflink Stadium

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Jamie Weir** on **01233 653481**

Bowler Coles departs for local rivals Essex

KENT bowler Matt Coles has joined local rivals Essex ahead of the 2018 season.

The 27-year-old made his Kent debut in 2009 after coming through the age group squads and academy.

He spent the 2014 season at Hampshire before returning to the club in 2015.

Coles said: "It's with a heavy heart that I leave Kent.

"It's been my home and family for most of my life.

"It's time for a fresh challenge and I'd like to thank everyone at Kent and wish everyone the very best moving forward in 2018 and beyond."

The Maidstone-born bowler made 212 appearances for Kent in all formats, taking 439 wickets.

Head coach Matt Walker said: "I've known Matt since he came into our age-group system.

"He's a talented cricketer and we wish him well.

"We are already identifying players to reinforce the squad and add to the talent in the group."



CRICKET: Kent's Matt Coles



DESTINATION: Wembley awaits in the final

Big names for county sides in FA Cup draw

KENT'S football clubs will take on some big names next month after the draw for the first round proper of the FA Cup was made this week.

Bromley will take on Rochdale after seeing off county rivals Dover Athletic 3-0 in a replay on Tuesday night, while Ebbsfleet United secured a mouthwatering home tie against Doncaster Rovers with a comfortable victory over East Thurrock.

Elsewhere, Maidstone will travel to Cheltenham Town after overcoming Enfield Town, Dartford's reward for victory over Burgess Hill Town is a tie with one-time Premier League outfit Swindon Town and Gillingham, who received a bye due to their League One status, will come up against Leyton Orient.

The ties will be played over the weekend of November 4 and 5.

Arsenal debut for Eynsford teen

A KENT-BORN teenager made his professional debut for Arsenal on Thursday night, as the Gunners left it later to beat Red Star Belgrade in the Europa League.

Ben Sheaf, from Eynsford, came on to replace Francis Coquelin in Serbia and caught the eye in his brief cameo shortly after Olivier Giroud's sublime overhead kick.

The 19-year-old, who was congratulated on his appearance by his old school Wilmington Grammar, was Kent County cross country champion four years running growing up.

Capable in midfield and at full-back, Sheaf may feature again in Arsenal's League Cup tie with Norwich on Tuesday.

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